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December 2018

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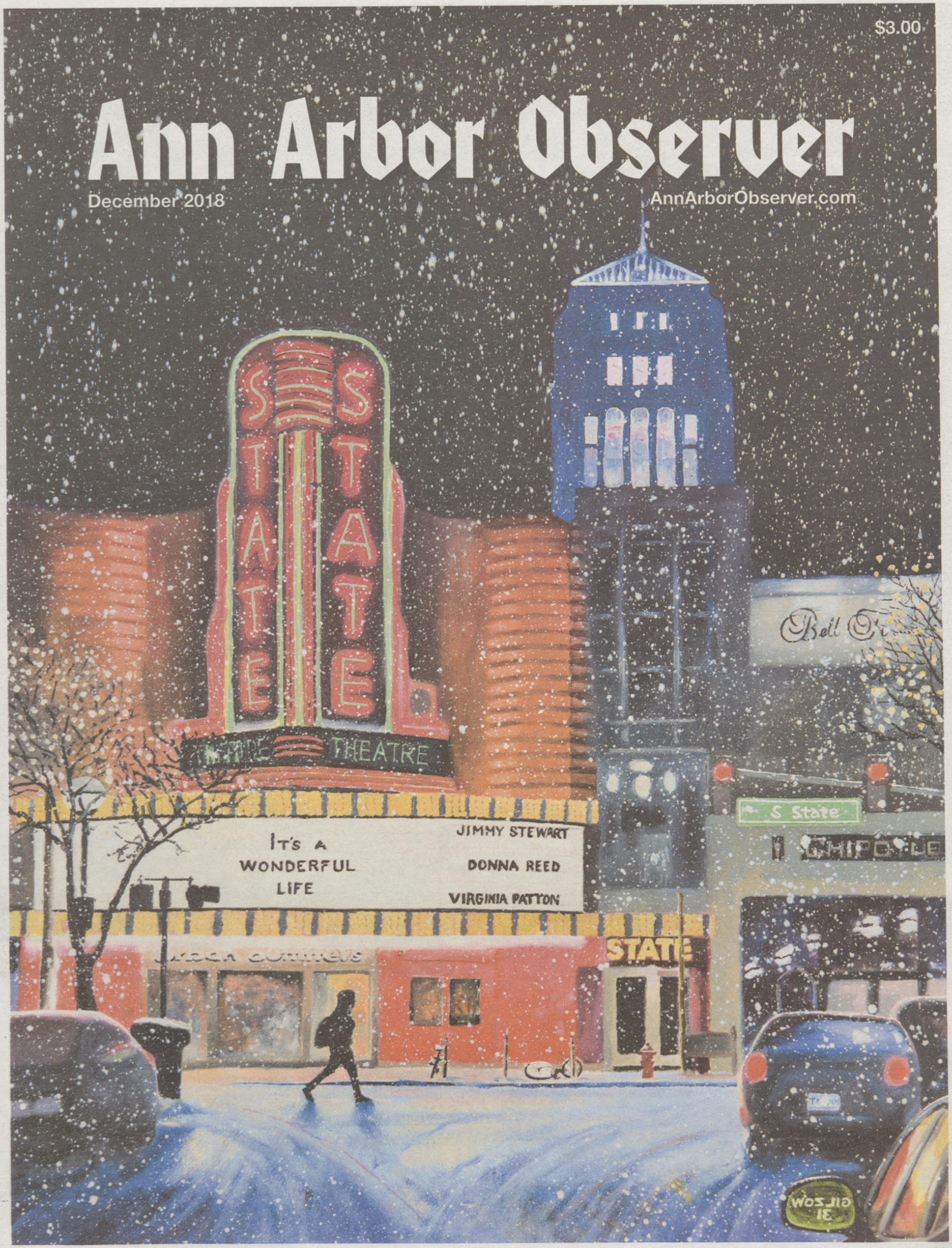

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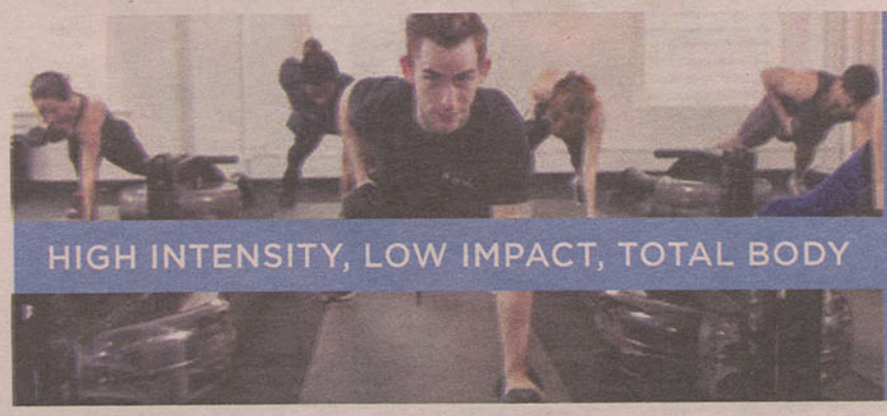

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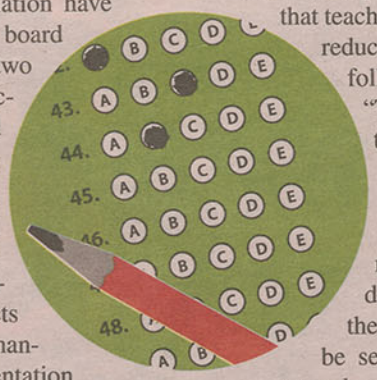
Resisting testing: "We need to push back," says newly elected schools trustee Bryan Johnson.



Candidates backed by the Ann Arbor Education Association have targeted incumbent board members in the last two elections. With the victories of Johnson and Rebecca Lazarus in November, they have now replaced four trustees who backed superintendent Jeanice Swift in conflicts over state policy mandates and the implementation of the International Baccalaureate program.

This year's slate took aim at state requirements on student testing and teacher evaluations. Now, as members of a 4–3 majority, they'll need to figure out what they can do about them.

"I understand that we are required by law to complete a certain amount of standardized testing or we will lose funding," Johnson emails. "I think we should examine to what extent that testing helps us improve student achievement and lobby lawmakers in Lansing to make changes where appropriate … "IF we as a district, determine the level of standardized testing negatively impacts our students to the extent that it outweighs the financial benefit of funding, we should explore ways to legally replace the funding and opt out of the testing."

Those are big "ifs." And recently reelected incumbent Jessica Kelly points out that the tests are also "part of the equation for determining eligibility for special education. I don't believe it is ethical to sacrifice our most academically vulnerable students to push this [anti-testing] agenda." If the new trustees want to do something about testing without jeopardizing state funding, Kelly suggests they "advocate at the state level to adopt a better exam"—something the district is already doing. But since the conservative Republicans who passed the mandates still control the legislature, it's doubtful they'll listen.

Johnson says the new majority won't have to wait on Lansing: "There is additional testing directly related to the way that teachers are evaluated that we can reduce right away," he says. In a follow-up email, he explains: "There's a percentage of the teacher evaluation that measures student growth. This student growth metric has to use data and one portion must be standardized testing data. The second portion of the student growth metric can be selected by the district. This second portion is where a lot of additional testing comes into play because teachers create pre and post tests … As a result, one day this year my 8th grader had a pre test in all seven of her courses. That's a ton of testing in one day."

The new majority could also end the International Baccalaureate program. "I wouldn't automatically undo something," says Johnson. "But we need to evaluate if it's being used to pad the bottom line by attracting students to the district."

One trustee's padding, of course, is another's rainy day fund. The district survived the recession better than most because it was able to tap a $40 million fund balance. By the time Swift arrived, that cushion was gone, and the district was on the verge of borrowing to meet payroll.

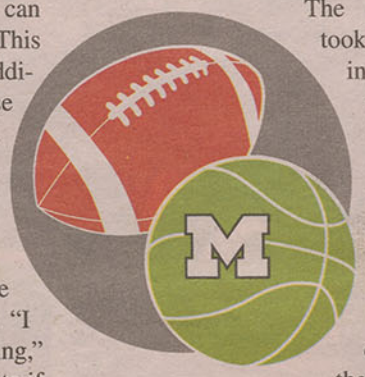
That didn't happen, but only because Swift added popular programs to win back kids from private schools and charters, as well as from other districts. If the new trustees seek to undo those initiatives, the stage is set for a conflict.

It may not be long in coming. In making changes, Johnson says, the new board needs "to move with a sense of urgency."

Crisler fervor: The day after the U-M men's basketball team played Villanova in November, two men overheard talking sports at Lucky's Market were asked if they were excited about the game. "Are you kidding me?" one asked. "Most surprising win of my lifetime."

"Wait a minute," the other said. "U-M won last night? That wasn't supposed to happen."

The team's extraordinary run last year generated extraordinary excitement. In some ways it started as a typical season under head coach John Beilein: they looked unsteady until the middle of the schedule and then caught fire. But this time, they really burned up the court: Michigan won fourteen consecutive games before losing the NCAA championship final to Villanova.



The Wolverines took their revenge in November, demolishing the Wildcats on their home court. It was their third win in as many games—and each time, there was a half where they held their opponents to no more than seventeen points.

To understand how remarkable this is, consider that in Beilein's first ten years at Michigan, his teams averaged a mediocre seventy-third in defensive efficiency, well below the Big Ten average. Last season, they were third in the country and first in the Big Ten.

Driven by elite defenders Zavier Simpson and Charles Matthews and assistant coach Luke Yaklich, who obsesses over defensive numbers, Michigan's defense powered their late-season run—which was predicated less on scoring, and more on keeping the other team from scoring. This season's early victories confirm that with Ignas Brazdeikis joining Matthews, Simpson, Isaiah Livers, and Jon Teske, Beilein will once again field one of the best defensive teams in the country.

The six-foot-seven Brazdeikis, from Lithuania by way of Toronto, is also poised to join Matthews as one of Michigan's two highest scorers. Which highlights Beilein's problem: the Wolverines were just so-so on offense last year—and all of that team's best shooters are gone.

This year's team is young—nine of twelve on the roster are freshmen or sophomores—and in their early games, they had trouble putting the ball in the hole. But as Michigan proved last season, a strong defense can carry a team a long way. For opponents, playing the Wolverines is like playing sandpaper, and the shooting should come along.

Another final may be too much to ask for, but Michigan has a good shot at a third straight Big Ten Championship and a run in the NCAAs. It should be another exciting year.

Pole puzzle: DTE has more than two million electricity customers, and to serve them it owns more than one million power poles. Almost all are indistinguishable from the ones used when it was founded as the Detroit Edison Co. in 1903: just very large tree trunks, stuck in the ground and draped with wires.

So what explains the gigantic, flat-sided pole across from the U-M's Yost Ice Arena at the corner of State and Dewey? Does it have more wires—or more important wires—than any other pole in Ann Arbor?

A web search identifies it as an "engineered laminated wood" pole. Glued together from strips of lumber, they're stronger than poles made from a single tree trunk. "This particular pole at State and Dewey requires guying [with wires to keep it from bending], but because we were unable to guy in the direction needed, we used a laminate pole," a DTE spokesperson emails. The spokesperson couldn't confirm a supposition that the reinforced pole marks this as the most challenging site in town. ■

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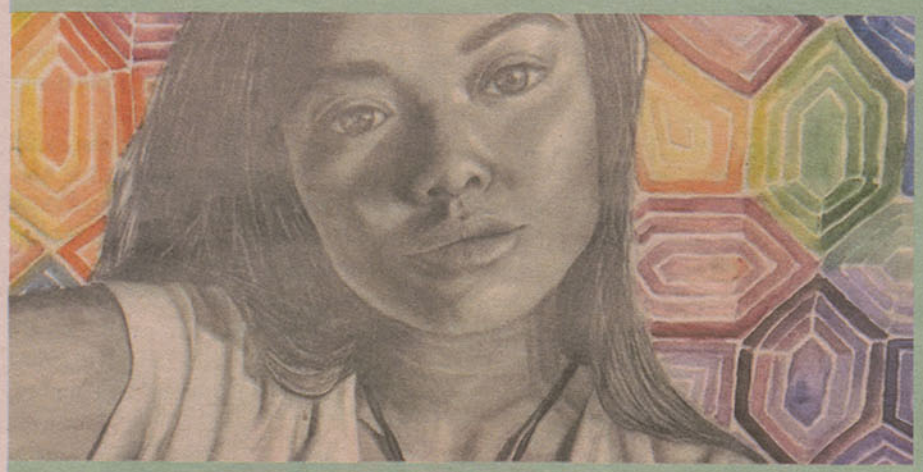

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Balance of Power

"Proposal A is now in the charter, and it's our obligation to live up to it."

So says mayor Christopher Taylor. The charter amendment, which passed 53 percent to 47 percent, requires the city to maintain the "library lot" between Fifth and Division in public ownership—even though the attorney-mayor maintains that it's already been sold to a Chicago developer. The developer, Core Spaces, offered $10 million for the right to build a seventeen-story building there.

Councilmembers opposed to the development have challenged the legality of that sale in court. Now the developers may go to court, too. After the election, the company issued a brief statement: "Core Spaces will continue as planned in our project development process per the terms of our contract with the city."

The library lot vote was a repudiation of the pro-growth council faction Taylor leads. It has controlled council almost continuously for eighteen years but, after losing three seats this year, is now reduced to a four-vote minority on the eleven-member council.

"Whether [Proposal A] can withstand legal scrutiny," Taylor says, "only time will tell."

Whatever the courts decide, the vote was a repudiation of the pro-growth council faction Taylor leads. It has controlled council almost continuously for eighteen years but, after losing three seats this year, is now reduced to a four-vote minority on the eleven-member council.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Council's new math will test Mayor Taylor's cheerful demeanor.

But as mayor, Taylor doesn't just have a vote—he has the power to veto council actions. Though he's never done so before, he says he's not afraid to start now. "Veto is part of the job," he shrugs.

Because overturning a veto takes eight votes, "to get anything done will require collaboration," Taylor says. "Positive actions cannot be sustained in the face of a veto with only seven votes."

The Library Lot became a referendum on the city's ongoing redevelopment. But it was also atypical, because the site was already in public ownership. The only way to limit private redevelopment is to change zoning—and the new majority "can't, on their own, change zoning because they can't override a veto," Taylor says. He allows zoning could still change, but only "in a manner that reflects a consensus"—that is, a manner acceptable to the minority.

That could be seen as a threat—or as an invitation to negotiate.

Go Blue Guarantee

More than a quarter of in-state U-M undergrads will pay no tuition this year.

The university has long argued that its reputation for being expensive is exaggerated. While out-of-state students face tuition bills approaching $50,000 a year, the list price for in-state undergrads under $15,000—and with financial aid, many pay less. BridgeMI.com recently compared tuition and other costs at Michigan's public universities and concluded that for students whose families earn $75,000 or less a year, the "net cost of attendance" at the Ann Arbor campus is actually the lowest in the state.

Sharing that message is "what brought me to Michigan in the fall of 2014," says Kedra Ishop, the U-M's first vice provost for enrollment management. Internally, she had to bring together the offices of admissions, financial aid, the registrar, and new student programs. Externally, she was charged with figuring out "how do we better describe to our public the financial aid resources that we have available to students in the state of Michigan?

"What we know nationally is lower-income students tend not to see themselves able to apply to high-cost institutions because they don't think they can afford it," Ishop says, "even though they are academically qualified to be there." So they looked for ways to get good students from low-income households to apply.

Provost Martha Pollack was very involved before she left to head Cornell last year. Former provost Paul Courant replaced her on an interim basis. By then, Courant says, administrators were putting the finishing touches on a plan to "send a very simple message" to less affluent

JOHN HILTON

The university has been advertising and promoting the Go Blue Guarantee widely in the UP, Detroit, and other lower-income areas—in high school visits, movie theater ads, and digitally.

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Michigan residents: if they could get in, their tuition would be free.

They decided to target households earning no more than the state median. "Actually, our current [financial aid] policies weren't very far away from that," Courant recalls. "We basically said, 'OK, let's push on it and figure out, can it work? Do the numbers add up?' And the answer turned out, with a little bit of effort, to be yes."

Vice provost Kedra Ishop is excited about building a more-inclusive student body: "What's been so great for me personally is to be at a place that has the resources and the ambition and will do what it can in this space to try to be aggressive around socioeconomic and racial diversity."

In June 2017, President Schlissel announced the "Go Blue Guarantee": students from households earning less than $65,000 a year and with assets of less than $50,000 can attend the Ann Arbor campus tuition-free.

It wasn't really a huge change from what had already been available for years. But now it had a simple message, and a name. The university began advertising and promoting the guarantee widely in the UP, Detroit, and other lower-income areas—in high school visits, movie theater ads, and digitally.

It worked: an October release reported "a 24-percent increase in admissions applications from some of the state's lowest-income students in the first year since implementing the guarantee, contributing to a nearly 6-percent increase in freshman enrollment from those with incomes of $65,000 or less."

While those results are encouraging, they're not transformative: the 26 percent of in-state undergrads paying no tuition is only one percentage point higher than last year. And while roughly 1,700 students are having their tuition covered by the Go Blue Guarantee this fall, that's virtually unchanged from the number who were enrolled when it was applied retroactively to current students in January.

Ishop hopes this is just the start. "The commitment of the Go Blue Guarantee is meant to change the perception of affordability over time," she emails, "which will hopefully lead to increases in applications from competitive low- and moderate-income families, leading to more offers of admissions, and greater enrollments."

Though the Go Blue Guarantee is getting all the attention at the moment, it's just part of the U-M's financial aid toolkit. "Our lowest income students—students that have no expected family contribution—typically incomes of $25,000 or less—they are more likely to get a financial aid package that actually covers the full cost of attendance," notes Ishop. "So they're Go Blue Guarantee, but they're going to be receiving Michigan Grant and other aid from us, too, which pays the full $28,000, and includes their room and board and other things."

"People with much higher incomes will still get financial aid," adds Courant. "There's not a cliff at $65,000 at all. What happens if you're at, let's say, $70,000 is, you get almost as much aid—but you have to pay some tuition in the typical case."

Ishop is excited about the prospects for building a more-inclusive student body. "What's been so great for me personally is to be at a place that has the resources and the ambition and will do what it can in this space to try to be aggressive around socioeconomic and racial diversity," she writes. The enrollment of students from underrepresented minorities, which nosedived after Michigan voters banned affirmative action in 2006, is already turning around.

According to the October release, "Of the 6,403 new freshmen who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents, 949 are underrepresented minorities that make up 14.8 percent of new freshmen, an increase from 13.9 percent last year and 10 percent in 2014."

Serious Comics

"It's tough to hold a place in Ann Arbor," says Vault of Midnight partner Nick Yribar.

"Businesses we love have gone," says Yribar (pronounced "why-bar"). "That's what has to happen as the city grows. The only way for us to secure our place here is to buy this building."

Which is what the Vault has done: in November, the comics and board game store bought the nineteenth-century brick building it occupies at 219 S. Main from Steve and Shelly Kelly.

The youngest of the Vault's three partners, Yribar started helping out at its original location on S. Ashley soon after it opened in 1996. At the time, he was just eleven years old. "We paid him under the table in comic books," jokes Curtis Sullivan.

Yribar was making more than the founders. Sullivan and his boyhood friend Steve Fodale didn't take a paycheck from the business for eight years.

Sullivan and Fodale had dreamed of opening a comics store ever since they were classmates at Bach Elementary School. But "when we first started we had zero dollars," says Sullivan, now forty-five. "Nobody would consider loaning a dime to kids like us!"

"Between me and him we got together $2,000," says Fodale, sitting with Yribar and Sullivan in the Vault's basement while Sullivan's wife Liz DellaRocco runs the front counter upstairs. "His comic book collection and

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COURTESY VAULT OF MIDNIGHT

Nick Yribar, Curtis Sullivan, and Steve Fodale moved the Vault of Midnight three times before Steve and Shelly Kelly rented them space on Main St. in 2006. In November, the Kellys sold them the building.

some toys that he had was our opening inventory."

"We both worked full-time restaurant jobs," says Sullivan. "In the early days, no joke, we worked eighty to one hundred hours a week."

"Curtis and his family—with two kids—moved into my one-bedroom house so that we could afford to pay [the store's] $500 a month rent," Fodale adds.

"We made so many bad decisions," Sullivan says. "We tried selling video games. There's no money to be made in new video games. We did VHS rental for a while. We specialized in kung fu movies and anime."

When the Kellys closed their remainder bookshop, After Words, "There is no earthly reason why they should have rented to the Vault of Midnight," says Yribar. But Fodale says the couple "wanted something vibrant, something Ann Arbor on Main Street."

"Right where the money is," laughs Yribar. "And I spent a lot of our money on an online web store that was a big waste of time."

The Vault not only survived, it kept growing. "We've never had a down year," Fodale says. But it also had to keep moving. "This is our fourth location," Fodale explains. "The first was on Ashley, then on Huron and Fourth, then on Liberty below Afternoon Delight."

"That building sold while we were there," adds Sullivan, "and the new landlords wanted to more than double our rent!"

The year was 2006. "At that point we actually had some money in the bank," Sullivan recalls. "We had some credit. We had a reputation. And we still had trouble locating a spot. People didn't want to rent to a comic shop. Then we met Steve and Shelly."

The Kellys were closing their remainder bookshop, After Words, and looking for a tenant for its space. "There is no earthly reason why they should have rented to the Vault of Midnight," says Yribar. "They could have had their pick."

But the Kellys "wanted something vibrant, something Ann Arbor on Main Street," says Fodale. "That cost them. They could have gotten more money from a restaurant or a bar."

The couple rented the first floor and basement to the Vault partners anyway—and this November, they sold them the building.

The Kellys started After Words in 1979 and bought the building in 1993 from bandleader-turned-music-store-owner Al Nalli. "We were treated really well by Al Nalli when we bought the building, and we're happy to pass it along to Nick, Steve, and Curtis," Steve Kelly explains. "They were good business people, and it was the kind of place I want there, a business that would draw a wide variety of people downtown." And at seventy, he adds, "I was tired of dealing with the responsibility. It ruined my buzz!"

The Vault has 2,500 square feet of brightly illuminated comics on the main floor, from Superman and Spiderman to *Britannia,* a detective story set in Roman Britain, and *The Goddamned,* which imagines the life of Cain (of Cain and Abel) in the years before the Flood.

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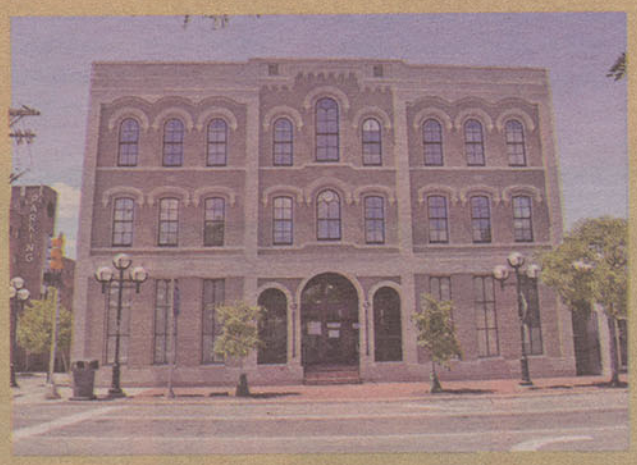

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Another 1,500 square feet downstairs is partly given to retail space for old comics and new games, with the rest used as a meeting space for gaming. The top two floors are rented to tenants that include a tattoo artist and a web design studio. The Vault would like them to stay, but they've got to raise the rent because, with the building's sale, the property taxes have more than doubled.

Buying the building will enable the partners to "plan how the Vault of Midnight is going to grow," says Yribar.

"We've got a ton of ideas that will allow us to never have a day off and continue to take everything we've made and pour it into some new venture," laughs Sullivan.

They've already launched two new ventures: "We opened [stores] in 2013 in Grand Rapids and in 2016 in Detroit," says Fodale. "When we opened Grand Rapids that was our first financing." Though even then, Sullivan notes, "we had to put our houses up as collateral."

"Between all three shops [we have] twenty-five employees with health insurance and retirement benefits," says Fodale. "And paid vacations," adds Sullivan, "and profit sharing."

"If we didn't have any of those things, we might be able to make real money," says Yribar, "but that's not the kind of business we want to run."

"The dream is that we become stable enough and good enough about what we're doing that we fundamentally change the way comic shops are perceived. The perception of comics is still that this is adolescent pap."

That goal may be unattainable. But running a successful comic book shop and owning their own building once seemed unattainable, too.

Now that they own their building, says Yribar, "we want to be here forever. We love this city."

Flying Trunk

"I wanted to combine theater, education, and writing," Joanna Hastings says.

Hastings, the longtime head of Summers-Knoll School, entered a new phase of her life after her mother died in 2015. "I realized how quickly time was passing and that I needed to make my life count," she says.

The longtime head of Summers-Knoll School entered a new phase of her life after her mother died in 2015. "I realized how quickly time was passing," she says, "and that I needed to make my life count."

A native of England, Hastings taught theater and high school English before moving to Ann Arbor with her husband twenty-six years ago. While raising two children, she became involved in community theater and taught, eventually coming to Summers-Knoll. When her marriage ended and her nest emptied, she decided the time was right to follow her passion.

MARK BIALEK

After an interlude as Ann Arbor's Sonnet Bomber, Hastings launched Flying Trunk Stories. She mails stories and related artifacts to children whose parents have placed orders through her website.

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"I loved the kids, the work, the school, and its mission, but they consumed all my time and I had no opportunity to do the other things I love," she says. "I'd always wanted to be an author, and I realized that if that was a goal, I'd better get started on it."

She remembered hearing her mother tell friends, "Joanna was born writing." But she'd never had anything published—"life got in the way," she says.

She gave Summers-Knoll a year's notice. When she left in July 2016, "suddenly I had the time to write," she says. While she considered various ways to do so professionally, she became Ann Arbor's "Sonnet Bomber."

"I talked to merchants on Main Street and realized how hard they work and how precarious running a small business can be," she says. "They get so little recognition for what they do. Early in the morning, I began posting sonnets on merchants' doors, so they knew someone was thinking of them."

She treasures the handwritten letters (often accompanied by pictures) she receives in return for her stories. "Children who love writing are inspired to write more," she says. "Kids who are insecure about writing are motivated to try."

She still pens an occasional poetic tribute, "but I haven't done anything consistently since December 2016," she says, "It's cold at 5 a.m. in the winter!" But a seed planted while she was sonnet-bombing has since grown into Flying Trunk Stories. For the last year, she's been mailing stories and related artifacts to children whose parents place orders through her website, flyingtrunkstories.com. She borrowed the name from a Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale about a hapless young man whisked in a flying trunk to an exotic land, where he discovers the magic of a good story.

"Essentially, I'm writing dramatic monologues with themes like courage, honor, and integrity," she says. "Then I choose clues to help readers solve the mystery or challenge." These artifacts could be anything from a beautiful but broken watch ("the gateway to another time") to silk flower petals ("put them under your pillow to give you courage.")

The child's parents or caretakers suggest themes and characters. Hastings then adopts a persona—perhaps a genie, fairy, or storytelling rabbit—and writes out an interactive story by hand. She chooses appropriate artifacts, seals each packet with an old-fashioned wax seal or a ribbon—"whatever's right for the story"—and sends them on their way.

At last count, she has eighteen "story experiences" to customize, including "The Quest of the Rascal Queen" (a pirate story), "The Genie of the Pepper Pot" (introducing a genie found in a junk shop), and "On the Hill" (about a spirit wolf in Michigan's Upper Peninsula). Prices range from $50 for one with a single episode to $210 for seven. A new program, "Nominate a Child," is a sort of scholarship: it offers adults a chance to suggest children they think will benefit. Periodically, Hastings draws out a name and sends the child a free story.

She treasures the handwritten letters (often accompanied by pictures) she receives in return. "Children who love writing are inspired to write more," she says. "Kids who are insecure about writing are motivated to try."

"I love what I do," Hastings says, sipping on a cup of good English tea. "Wonder fuels inspiration, inspiration drives creation, creation pushes the boundaries of thinking and provides a sandbox where children can play with skills—writing, storytelling, deep reading, and the sheer joy of language."

calls & letters

The Nixons' arrival

Our article on the political fallout from the development of the former Nixon farm ("The Tipping Point," October) dated the family's ownership of the property to the 1860s. "They were actually here in the 1830s," Leon Harding said in a phone call. Harding, who's writing a history of early Ann Arbor, says property records show Sarah Nixon buying parcels on either side of today's Nixon Rd. in 1833 and 1834.

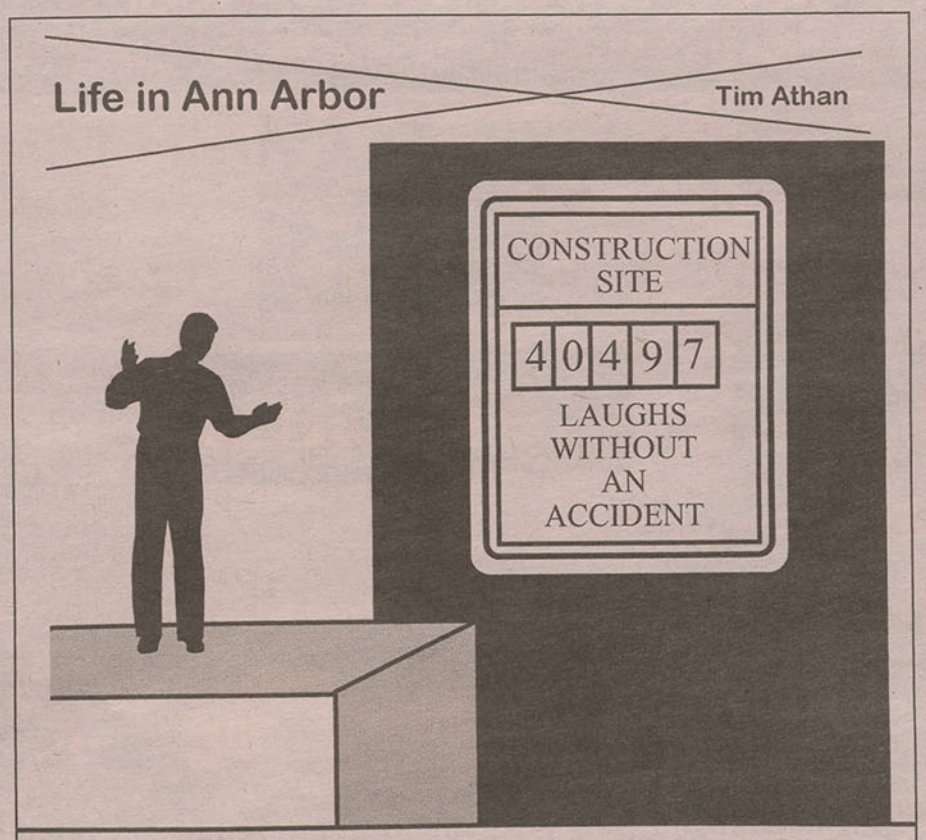
question corner

Q. Do the police ever ticket the drivers of noisy motorcycles or cars for "disturbing the peace"?

A. Ann Arbor has ordinances limiting vehicle noise. Mopeds, for instance, are limited to eighty-two decibels. Outgoing Ward Five councilmember Chuck Warpehoski emails that the city's "limits seem to be in the mid-point of common practice, but some states such as Connecticut do have lower limits."

AAPD sergeant Bill Clock emails that officers occasionally ticket owners of noisy vehicles for "equipment violation." The $100 fee is generally waived once the issue is addressed.

Got a question? Email question@aaobserver.com.



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by Bob & Jorja Feldman

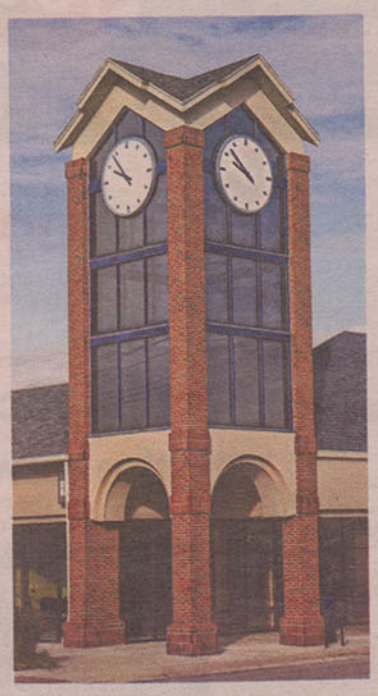
About Time

Three clock towers

Three clock towers that stand out in their surrounding landscapes reflect different aspects of the Ann Arbor character.

The U-M's Burton Tower with its four clocks and carillon is artistry. Arborland's soaring digital clock shines brightly. Traver Village's tower clock with its abundant red brick is welcoming.

Burton Tower has four separate clocks, one for each side of the building. All share a single controller, but each has an individual mechanism. Facilities staffers Camie Munsell and Patrick Armstrong told us that once a week a millwright climbs an internal spiral staircase from the ninth floor, takes a catwalk at the top, and then inspects, adjusts, and maintains the gear boxes that drive the hands. Armstrong says that the hands occasionally get out of sync and need to be adjusted by a minute or two. Why this happens is a bit of a mystery, but wind is suspected as the culprit.



Three clock towers that stand out in their surrounding landscapes reflect different aspects of the Ann Arbor character.

The other outstanding characteristic of Burton Tower is the Baird Carillon. It "originated in the Netherlands, where the automatic carillon [that sounds the quarters and hours] and clock system are considered an inseparable whole," says university carillonist Tiffany Ng. Its original Westminster Quarters mechanism, installed when the tower was built in 1936, is still running. The controller was replaced in 1998 by a newer Apollo controller made in Holland.

Arborland's giant digital clock is mounted high on a skeleton tower. Topped with a giant red "A," it is more visible to more people more often than any other clock in town. It can even be seen from US-23.

How do they change a light bulb way up there? The answer came from Brian Whisenhunt, director of property management for Brixmor Property Group's midwestern region. Brixmor acquired Arborland last year. While the tower has a built-in ladder, bulbs—which are getting hard to find—are replaced by a sign company using a service vehicle with a boom and bucket.

"The clock is a community landmark that we plan to preserve," says Brixmor spokesperson Kristen Moore, "but we will give it an energy-efficient update." Whisenhunt says they are also looking at a way to control the clock remotely rather than from the base of the tower. Brixmor hopes to make the updates before year's end, although the work could slide into the first quarter of 2019.

Traver Village has a clock tower at its southwest corner. Like the rest of the shopping center, the tower makes abundant use of warm red brick; like Burton, the clocks have traditional analog faces.

While the hours are running out for 2018, all three clocks will be keeping us timely company as we enter the new year. ■

PHOTOS: BOB & JORJA FELDMAN

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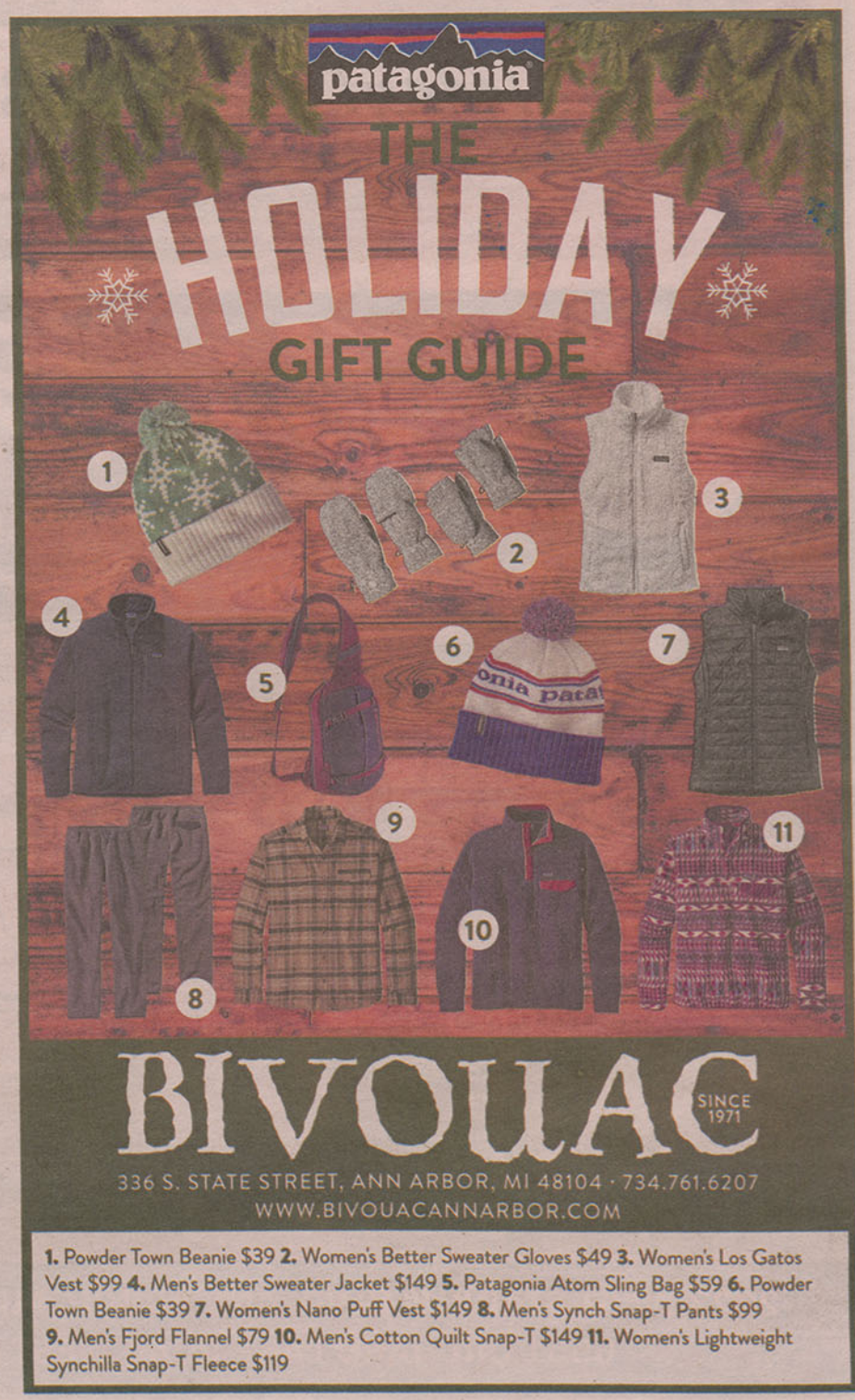

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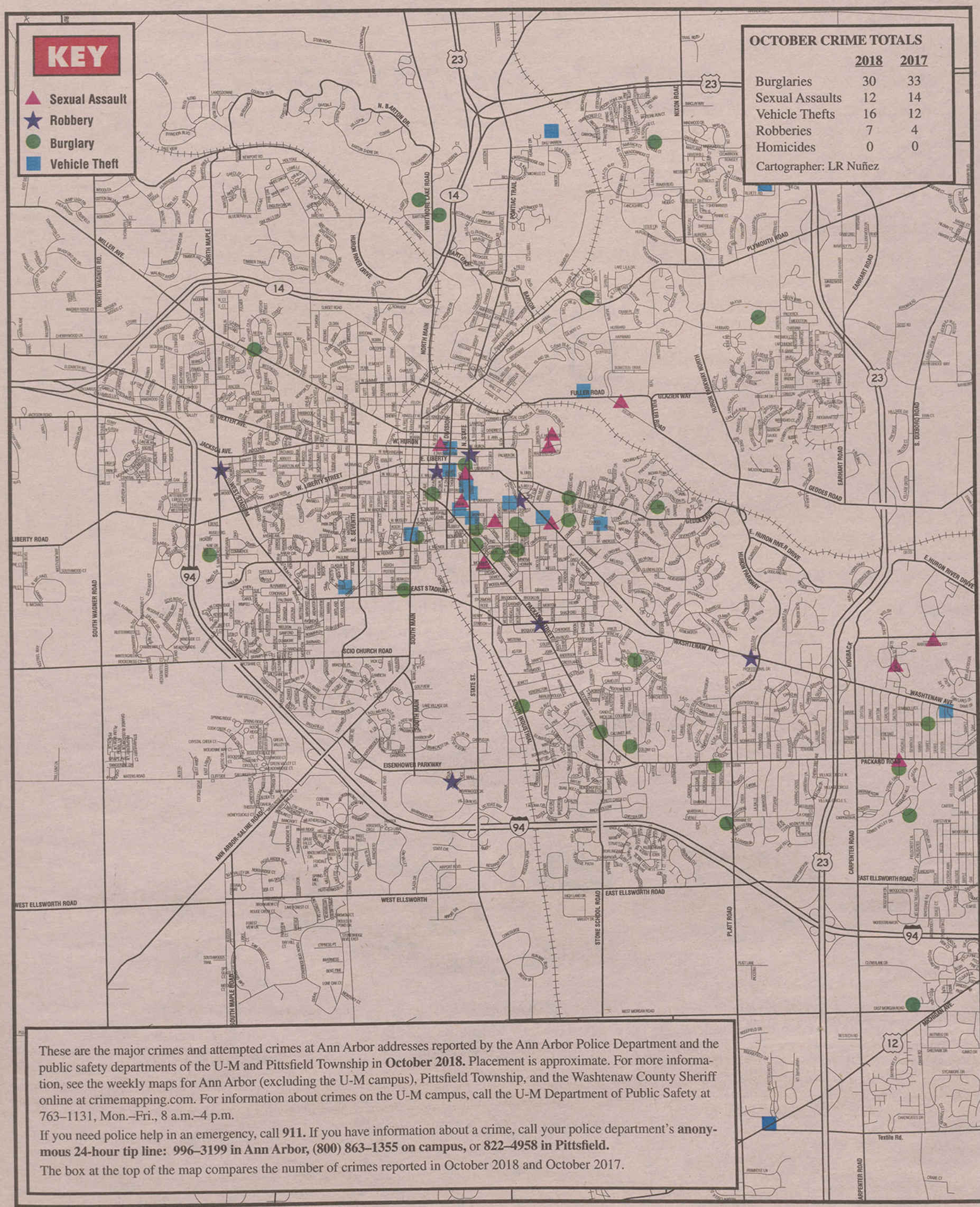

These are the major crimes and attempted crimes at Ann Arbor addresses reported by the Ann Arbor Police Department and the public safety departments of the U-M and Pittsfield Township in **October 2018.** Placement is approximate. For more information, see the weekly maps for Ann Arbor (excluding the U-M campus), Pittsfield Township, and the Washtenaw County Sheriff online at crimemapping.com. For information about crimes on the U-M campus, call the U-M Department of Public Safety at 763–1131, Mon.–Fri., 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

If you need police help in an emergency, call **911.** If you have information about a crime, call your police department's **anonymous 24-hour tip line: 996–3199 in Ann Arbor, (800) 863–1355 on campus,** or **822–4958 in Pittsfield.**

The box at the top of the map compares the number of crimes reported in October 2018 and October 2017.

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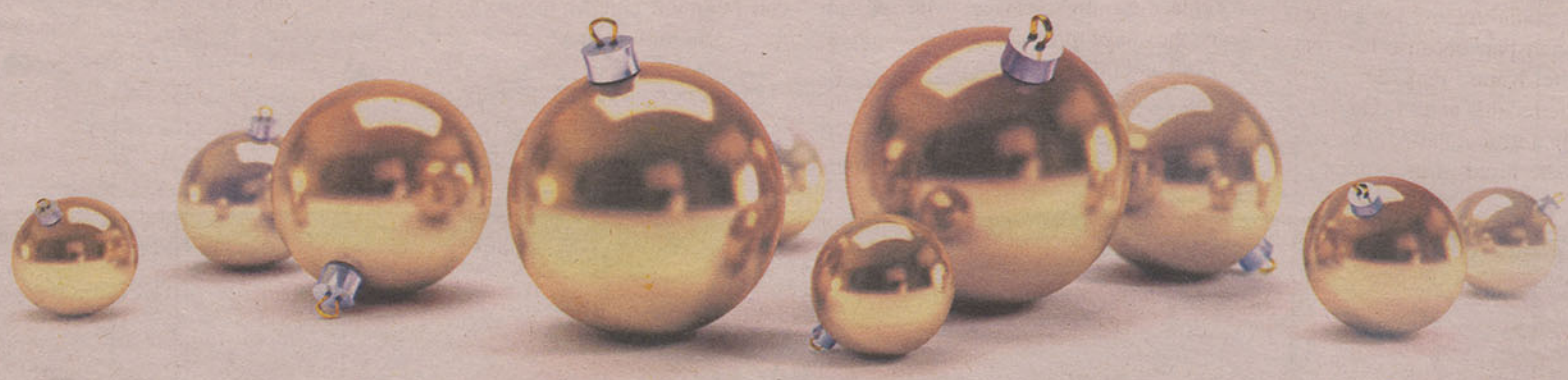

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Standing over a cauldron of melted chocolate, Charlie Frank says approvingly, "It has a great shine! It's dark. It's *behaving!*"

In the frenzied holiday season, Zingerman's head candymaker does his best to make his confections behave. One second of distraction can result in something burning or spilling over—and that can be dangerous as well as frustrating. "You're working with something well over three hundred degrees Fahrenheit," says Frank, a fit, friendly fifty-two-year-old whose apron tops a slightly smeared T-shirt reading "Better Cakes Make Better Birthdays."

"Be sure you're careful," he advises. About two years ago, he recalls, a pot of boiling peanut brittle spilled and burned his thumb, leaving a blister that "took weeks to heal."

Visitors to the small Zingerman's candy store on Plaza Dr. can press their faces to the glass partition and watch Frank and his confectioners at work in what they call the Candy Manufactory. Today, they are rolling out trays of peanut brittle. It's Zingerman's most popular holiday candy by far. About 25 percent of the Manufactory's sales come in the last six weeks of the year, and by New Year's Eve, the candymakers will have produced between three and four tons of the sweet, crunchy stuff, to be shipped to businesses and homes across the country.

Frank and his crew also produce about 200,000 candy bars a year—all of them Frank's original creations. The Original Zzang! bar, described as the "classic candy bar combination of peanuts, caramel and chocolate," is still the most popular, but there are four other flavors as well.

Frank has a special feeling for the Peanut Butter Crunch bar, because he created it for his wife, Katie Frank. She loved Reese's cups, he recalls, and "I told her 'I think I can do better than that.' " The couple met when she hired in as a manager at Zingerman's Bakehouse; today, she's a consultant at ZingTrain, Zingerman's workplace-training service. Married ten years, they have three young boys—a five-year-old and three-year-old twins.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

About 25 percent of the Candy Manufactory's sales come in the last six weeks of the year. Peanut brittle is the most popular, and by New Year's Eve, the candymakers will have produced between three and four tons of the sweet, crunchy stuff, to be shipped to businesses and homes across the country.

Frank takes pride in being a candy artisan. "Candy made by the billions *can't* be great," he says, referring to supermarket treats like, well, Reese's. By producing candy in small batches, he explains, he can maintain control of everything from the quality of the nuts to the final sheen of chocolate.

A 1989 graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York, Frank was a pastry chef at various restaurants before he hired on at Zingerman's Bakehouse in 2001. A year later, he began making candy there. The Candy Manufactory became a full-fledged member of the Zingerman's Community of Businesses in 2010, with Frank as managing partner. It moved into its current space last year.

Changing from baked goods to candy was not dramatic, he says, noting that in the past confectioners—a word he regrets isn't used more—did both. "Cookies and cakes—that's 'soft' confectionary," compared to the "hard" confectionary of candy, he explains. "I'm using sugar, butter, and chocolate—[bakers are] using sugar, butter, and chocolate. It's what you do with it."

Frank grew up in Romeo, north of Detroit. His father was a clay modeler at the GM Tech Center, his mother was a potter, and theirs was what would now be called a foodie household—though the term hadn't been coined yet.

The family grew its own tomatoes and picked berries. His mother was a talented cook and baker who "made us all bake our own birthday cakes," Frank recalls. And like most kids, he loved sweets. Every week after his piano lesson, he'd go to Felig's candy store downtown and carefully choose fifty cents' worth of treats. He bought a lot of Swedish Fish and strips of candy dots—"I was into volume and to fill that brown paper bag!"—and occasionally splurged on a candy bar.

Full-time candy making is tough, physical work, Frank emphasizes. He's careful to stay in shape through exercise and a healthy diet—he and his family consume his treats "in moderation." His good health helps him make it through the long weeks before New Year's; he also tries to ease the stress of the other bakers through antics like "Fun Fridays," when they joke back and forth while working.

After the Times Square ball drops, he says, the tired confectioners "can chill out a bit"—but not for long. Says Frank, "For us in the candy world, you start looking out for Valentine's Day."

—Eve Silberman

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BeRemarkable.

Gutiérrez Soto as a reporter in Mexico. An article on military abuses made him a target.

COURTESY EMILIO GUTIÉRREZ SOTO

Reporter in Exile

★★★★★★★★★★★★

EMILIO GUTIÉRREZ SOTO DIDN'T SET OUT TO BE A HERO. HE JUST DIDN'T WANT TO BE KILLED FOR HIS WORK.

BY *James Militzer*

When he wrote the stories that would ruin his life, Emilio Gutiérrez Soto had no concept of their significance. He didn't realize they would set him on the grim path walked by journalistic martyrs who've risked everything for their profession, from Jamal Khashoggi to Marie Colvin to countless lesser-known compatriots of his in Mexico. He certainly didn't expect they would transform him into an international symbol of press freedom in the age of Trump—or lead him to a new start in a university town in the distant north.

A reporter at a small newspaper in Ascensión, a town of some 13,000 in the state of Chihuahua near the U.S. border, Gutiérrez Soto covered local news, including crime and sports. In 2005, he wrote three articles on a series of assaults and robberies, and quoted victims who said the perpetrators were members of the military.

"When I wrote that, I was thinking of doing my duty at work," he recalls in Spanish. "I did not think it would have these long and painful repercussions."

He hadn't expected to make powerful enemies. "If I had known," he admits, "I would not have written it."

He was summoned to a meeting with a Mexican general. Backed by a large group of soldiers, the general threatened to kill him because of his reporting and informed him that he was being placed under surveillance. The climate of fear grew worse in subsequent years, as the military's role in fighting Mexico's drug war expanded—along with attacks on the journalists who documented both sides' abuses.

Gutiérrez Soto filed complaints with the police and with Mexico's National Human Rights Commission. He even published an article—without his byline—about the threats. But his actions only served to increase his peril, which culminated with a panicked late-night drive to the border in 2008 after he was warned of an impending plot to kill him.

He left everything but his then-teenage son Oscar behind. He hoped that they could start a new life in the U.S. "I thought I would meet with a nation that would be more humane, with laws that would be more flexible," he says. He believed that, thanks to his "vastly credible reason that we had to leave everything behind in Mexico and ask for support and safety," his case for asylum would be clear-cut. But his ordeal was far from over.

Gutiérrez Soto and Oscar arrived legally in the U.S. in May 2008 and applied for asylum. They were immediately separated and detained in different facilities. They were only allowed to speak on the phone a few times over the two and a half months that Oscar was held before being released to live with some friends. Gutiérrez Soto was not released until the following January, after President Obama's inauguration.

Father and son spent nearly a decade in New Mexico, working odd jobs, operating a food truck, staying out of trouble—and attempting unsuccessfully to resolve their asylum case. But though those years were marked by growing support from the American journalistic and legal communities, it wasn't the life Gutiérrez Soto had planned. "I was making good money" in Mexico, he says. "I didn't change that life to come here to wash dishes, to clean yards, to sell corn or ice cones—these are not denigrating jobs, but I did not change that to do this."

HE WAS SUMMONED TO A MEETING WITH A MEXICAN GENERAL. BACKED BY A LARGE GROUP OF SOLDIERS, THE GENERAL THREATENED TO KILL HIM BECAUSE OF HIS REPORTING.

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But he knew his antagonists in Mexico hadn't forgotten him, especially as his public profile—and his criticisms of his country's government—grew. "The military is present in all institutions of power in Mexico—in the senate, congress, all secretariats, in all of them," he says. "Mexico does not move if the military does not approve it—the military is everywhere!"

Even phone calls home came to seem risky. "After I requested political asylum, the telephones that my family members in Mexico had began to sound differently, with an echo," he says. "So that made us think that they were being watched." He decided the contact could put them in danger and cut off communication. Yet at least he was with his son. At least they were safe.

In July 2017, an El Paso immigration judge denied their asylum claim. The judge expressed doubts that Gutiérrez Soto was in danger in Mexico and even questioned whether he actually was a journalist.

The decision and its timing, just six months after the inauguration of President Trump, sparked anger in journalist advocacy groups in the U.S. Many had come to support his long struggle for asylum and saw the decision as a reflection of the new administration's animus toward both the press and immigrants.

While the judge's decision was under appeal, the National Press Club invited Gutiérrez Soto to accept its Press Freedom Award on behalf of journalists in Mexico. At the October 2017 event, he delivered a blistering, heartfelt speech attacking corruption in the Mexican government—and hypocrisy in the U.S. on the issues of human rights and freedom of the press.

A few weeks later, during a routine check-in with immigration, officials detained him and Oscar. Their wrists and ankles were cuffed and they were told they would be immediately deported, without waiting for the outcome of their pending appeal. His pro bono lawyer's emergency intervention prevented that, but the two were put in a holding camp and left there for almost eight months.

"From the first to the last day it was like living in madness, like living in limbo, living in fear," Gutiérrez Soto says, choking up at the memory. He recalls the filthy living quarters and foul food, the humiliating lack of privacy, the anguish of seeing his son in a prison uniform, the cruelty of the guards. At one point immigration officials threatened to send Oscar to a different camp, only relenting when a camp doctor warned that it could dangerously worsen Gutiérrez Soto's already high blood pressure.

"What they seek is to destroy you so that you go back to your country," he says. "The guards are trained to do that, to make your life miserable." But knowing he faced death if he returned to Mexico, he held out.

This past April, Gutiérrez Soto was visited at the Texas detention facility by Lynette Clemetson, director of the U-M Wallace House. She'd gotten involved in his case in March, after the National Press Club invited Wallace House to join an amicus brief signed by some of the country's top journalism organizations. She was there to interview him for a possible Knight-Wallace Fellowship, which brings mid-career journalists to Ann Arbor for a year of academic study.

He told Clemetson that he still wanted to return to journalism even after his long exile from the profession. She vetted the quality of his work and made sure that she

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Reporter IN Exile

could legally offer a fellowship to someone with an uncertain immigration status. Then, on May 3—World Press Freedom Day—she announced the fellowship at the National Press Club in Washington. "I announced that we were offering him the fellowship there, intentionally, publically, in a different way than we do for other people, hoping that the attention around the announcement might prompt some change," she explains.

Gutiérrez Soto and his son were released from detention a few months later. But Clemetson doesn't think the involvement of Wallace House and its journalistic peers had anything to do with the government's change of heart.

"I think they got out of detention for the most cynical of reasons," she says, "because there were FOIAs in their case that showed that they were intentionally targeted [for deportation]. A judge had ordered that those emails be turned over—and right before the emails were supposed to be turned over, they were miraculously released."

Clemetson expects that, like all Knight-Wallace fellows, Gutiérrez Soto will develop his skills during his time here. But she also hopes "that the fellowship will help settle any dispute that the judge has that Emilio wasn't really a journalist … that his life wasn't really in danger. The validation of the fellowship and the university helps address those things."

The fellowship isn't the only support Gutiérrez Soto has gotten from the Ann Arbor community. After a researcher at the University of New Mexico did an exhaustive search to compile more than 100 of his newspaper stories—which weren't digitized or easily accessible—his legal team needed the documents translated on short order to submit to the court. "The Language Resource Center, here at the university, have this thing every year called a 'translate-a-thon,'" Clemetson explains. "And they translated more than eighty of Emilio's stories in one weekend, so that we could submit them to the court in early October by the deadline."

Zingerman's also got involved, training Oscar as a cook. "My son wants to become a chef," Gutiérrez Soto says. "He was learning about hospitality and services in Mexico. So now, he is going to learn at Zingerman's. He is happy, very happy."

Gutiérrez Soto himself seems most struck by Ann Arbor's diverse learning opportunities. "The spectrum of educational support that is offered here …" He laughs. "If someone wanted to get a doctorate in 'enchiladas,' they could get one. Enchiladas are from Mexico, but there are specialized people here who would find the formula to make the tastiest enchiladas in the

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

"We have 140 journalists that have been murdered [in Mexico] since 2000," Gutiérrez Soto says. This display he created at Wallace House also honors victims from Colombia, Russia, and Saudi Arabia.

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world. Here everyone has an educational opportunity for whatever they want. It's a nice city … and the people are very supportive, very attentive, very in tune with social justice issues.

"What is happening, the [anti-immigrant] phenomenon that is occurring, has not happened with all Americans," he continues, choking up again. "And I have had the fortune to meet very good people, people with very big hearts. They have shown us a lot of solidarity, in a very humane way, and that is something that's truly valuable."

But it's not yet clear if the efforts of Gutiérrez Soto and his supporters will make any difference. At a hearing in October, it appeared that the judge had lost some of the evidence that had been submitted to the appeals court, including the translated newspaper articles and hundreds of pages from the Board of Immigration Appeals ruling. The hearing was postponed until January.

In the eyes of Gutiérrez Soto's allies, the mishap is one more sign that he was not getting a fair hearing. "They're not interested in evidence," says Clemetson, who testified at the October session, accompanied by another Knight-Wallace Fellow who went to support Gutiérrez Soto and represent the fellowship class. "They've decided pretty much what the outcome will be."

Even if the judge rules against him, Gutiérrez Soto vows, he'll appeal again, all the way to the Supreme Court if necessary. In the meantime, he's moving ahead with his fellowship, attending events with students and colleagues, and considering his next steps—which may include writing a book.

"We have 140 journalists that have been murdered [in Mexico] since 2000," he says. "That is something catastrophic for global journalism, not only for Mexico but for the world. But they don't realize that even though they kill the messenger, the message arrives." ■

"They're not interested in evidence," says Wallace House director Lynette Clemetson, who testified at the October session. "They've decided pretty much what the outcome will be."

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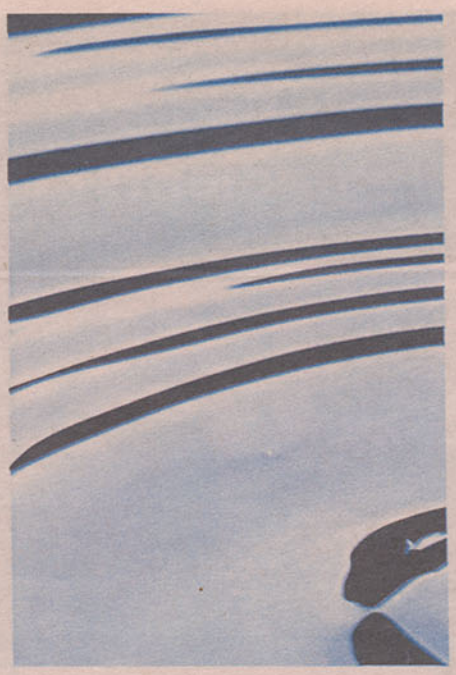

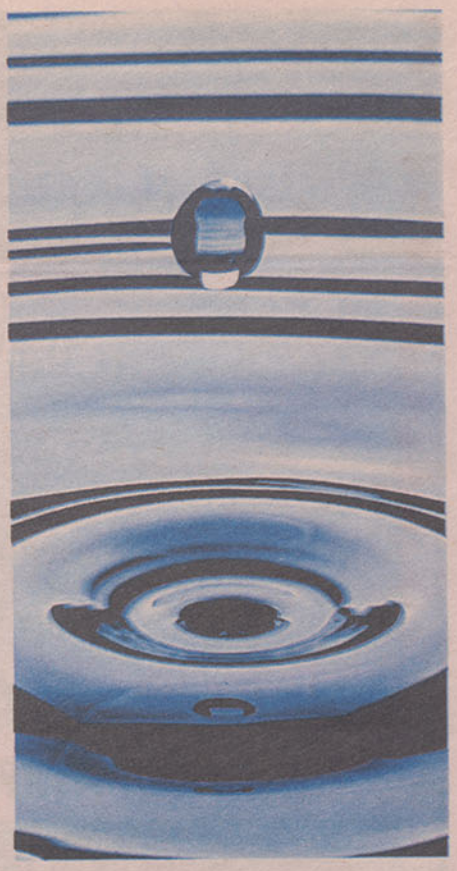

Getting the Lead Out

The AAPS is working to eliminate risks at school. Some community members say they should do more.

by Julie Halpert

In May 2017, a few months before Abby Dumes' son was to start kindergarten, she thought it was important to check the test results of lead exposure in Ann Arbor Public Schools. This likely would not be a priority of most prospective parents of kindergartners. But Dumes is a medical anthropologist and U-M anthropology lecturer specializing in environmental health.

"I was thinking about environmental health in the context of the Flint water crisis," she says. "It was on my radar." In 2016, the first year Ann Arbor Public Schools began testing its water for lead, most drinking fountains and sinks had undetectable levels. But that year only seventy sources were sampled. In 2017, the district expanded the sample to 388 sources, and when Dumes reviewed the results of this initial testing, she was alarmed. Only one of the district's thirty-two buildings, Huron High, had no detectable levels in any of its sources. Thirty-nine percent had at least one water source that exceeded the EPA "action level"—the threshold recommended to take action to remove lead—of fifteen parts per billion.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality recommends a lower action level, 5 ppb, which is also the FDA standard for bottled water. If the district had used that standard—as Dumes thought it should—79 percent of AAPS buildings would have had at least one source over the limit. One faucet at Burns Park Elementary initially tested at 320 ppb.

Lead is particularly toxic to children, whose bodies absorb significantly more of it than adults, causing major adverse effects to brain development. The American Academy of Pediatrics says there is no safe blood lead concentration level for children and recommends that school water fountains not exceed lead concentrations of 1 ppb.

Lead is particularly toxic to children, whose bodies absorb significantly more of it than adults, causing major adverse effects to brain development.

The Flint water crisis was a cautionary tale. To save money, a state-appointed emergency manager stopped buying water from Detroit and reopened a treatment plant on the Flint River. But the river's water was more corrosive, and many homes were connected to the city system through old lead pipes. City and state officials insisted the water was safe—but a 2015 study by pediatrician Mona Hanna-Attisha found that the percentage of young children with elevated levels of lead in their blood doubled after the water change, from 2.4 to 4.9 percent.

Over the last thirty years, federal programs have greatly reduced the risk of lead poisoning from old plumbing and lead-based paint. Even in Flint, the number of children with elevated blood levels fell by nearly three-quarters between 2006 and 2016. But the governmental failure became a global scandal—and focused everyone's attention on the danger of lead in drinking water.

In October, Dumes, Ecology Center deputy director Rebecca Meuninck, and two pediatricians who are AAPS parents created a petition asking that every source in Ann Arbor Public Schools used for drinking and cooking be tested. It garnered over 1,000 signatures. After an emotional school board meeting dominated by concerned community members speaking on the issue, superintendent Jeanice Swift announced that the district's lead testing program had been updated "to establish greater than 5ppb (>5ppb) as the level at which we will conduct mitigation action; any drinking water or food preparation locations testing at greater than 5ppb will be taken out of service until mitigation is completed and acceptable test results are achieved."

Mitigation actions could involve replacing water fixtures, installing lead filters, and possibly replacing water pipes. (Unlike Flint, Ann Arbor's system contains no lead pipes, but until 1986, copper pipes were joined with lead-based solder.) "We are all hands on deck" now, says Swift.

The district has also begun to install lead filtered "hydration stations" in each school, one for each 100 students in a building. The cost, roughly $1 million, will come from an existing sinking fund for building repair and construction. Swift also convened an advisory group of experts to wrestle with some of "the more subtle components of these issues."

There are no federal rules requiring testing of drinking water in schools. "Ann Arbor is the only school district I'm aware of in Washtenaw County that is on municipal water and has undertaken this type of proactive effort," says Kristen Schweighoefer, the county's environmental health director.

At an October school board meeting, Dumes said the current course of action represents "huge steps on the path to ensuring safe drinking water for every AAPS student." Meuninck was impressed that as soon as the issues were raised, "the school district acted so quickly and set a precedent for the best practices in the state."

But Dumes points out that only a portion of water sources have been tested so far and that sources that tested above 5 ppb in 2017 remain in use. "I think the biggest concern is that, while a long-term solution is being pieced together, children and staff continue to drink from tested and untested sources that are at risk for elevated levels of lead," she emails. "If there are outlets that continue to be on, and there isn't communication not to use them, they're going to be used."

Dumes is particularly troubled that a number of the fixtures that tested over 15 ppb in 2017 were left in service when retests after flushing showed lower levels. She points to an EPA protocol which indicates that flushing prior to sampling can result in artificially low measures of lead levels.

Swift says that the 2017 testing took place in the summer, when water sits stagnant in parts of closed schools, and standard protocol is to flush the water in such situations. She says the Arch Environmental Group, which did the testing, thought the unusually high levels from some of the faucets seemed out of order, so they tested them again. (Arch did not respond to requests for comment.) For example, when the Burns Park faucet tested high on July 27, two more samples were taken. On August 15, the level was down to 10 ppb. On August 16, after the prior day's flush, the level went down to 5 ppb. The Burns Park faucet remains in use, on the assumption

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Getting the Lead Out

that the initial high level was due to stagnant water.

Swift says every faucet was supposed to be flushed prior to sampling, but it's likely that eighteen faucets where levels were initially high and came down in subsequent tests had not properly been flushed before the first test. Those sources are still in service. Holly Gohlke, a water quality specialist with the MDEQ, says Arch Environmental's decision to leave those fixtures in service followed appropriate guidelines. AAPS, she says, is "doing a good job" following guidance from both the EPA and the DEQ.

Seven sources continued to test over 15 ppb in subsequent testing in the summer of 2017. Arch provided assessments of what parts needed to be replaced in those fixtures. Emile Lauzzana, AAPS executive director of physical properties, says that fixtures and immediately adjacent plumbing were replaced in those drinking water sources. The mitigation reduced lead levels under 15 ppb; those fixtures will now be retested, and if they test above 5 ppb additional mitigation will be performed.

Wayne State civil and environmental engineering professor Shawn McElmurry, whose research focuses on the transport of pollutants in urban systems, says that presuming the high levels of lead are due solely to stagnated water and leaving them in service may not be the most prudent approach. Any time a high concentration of lead is found, it indicates a potential source of lead exposure, he says, and the first draw typically reflects sources that are closer to the faucet. But "you can't guarantee that the lead in the first draw sample is due only to the immediate plumbing"—there could be a lead source farther back in the system.

Dumes remains concerned, she writes, that "AAPS continues to conduct pre-stagnation flushing, or flushing prior to sampling. This is out of step with EPA recommendations and, according to the EPA, 'may cause results showing lower than representative lead levels in the water.' "

She also wants the district to be more aggressive in restricting access to untrusted sources while testing is conducted, and points to the Detroit Public Schools: In August, after testing found high levels of copper and lead at sixteen schools, DPS shut off all drinking water sources in its system. Swift says AAPS is taking appropriate precautions, since most of its drinking fountains and sinks already are at or below 5 ppb.

Detroit, with its older housing stock, also has a much more serious problem with childhood lead exposure. The Michigan Department of Human Services reports that 8.8 percent of Detroit children tested in 2016 had elevated lead levels—far more than in Flint at the peak of the crisis.

In Washtenaw County, the figure in 2016 was just 1 percent. According to preliminary 2017 figures provided by Schweighoefer, of 1,116 children tested who gave Ann Arbor addresses, just eleven had lead levels over 5 mg.

Given the risks, however, no one wants their child exposed to lead. The challenge, says McElmurry, is that there is there is no single protocol or set of regulations that schools must follow. Stagnant water can allow lead to build up and antibacterial chlorine to decay. "To avoid that, we want clean water to flow through the pipes to consumers as fast as possible," McElmurry says.

"We have definitely been seeing stagnant water being a factor in elevated lead results," says Gohlke, the MDEQ water quality specialist. "We are highly recommending that schools do a water moving program in the building on a routine basis."

MARK BIALEK

While testing continues, the AAPS is installing lead-filtered "hydration stations" in every school.

Jerome Nriagu, professor emeritus at the U-M School of Public Health, who has published several papers on lead poisoning, isn't surprised there is an issue with lead in drinking water. "It's what you would expect in any plumbing system that is thirty to fifty years old," he says, due to the use of lead solder. He believes there needs to be more effort invested in trying to identify the source of the lead in water. And he's worried there won't be enough hydration stations to ensure that all students have easy access to safe water, particularly in a large school like Pioneer High. After they play sports, "they're very thirsty. They'll have to get permission to run to the other end of the school to get a drink. It doesn't make

sense to me," Nriagu says. He suggests an interim measure: equipping every drinking fountain with certified filters. "Filters can bring the lead down to acceptable levels while they're trying to figure out how to deal" with the problem, he says.

Swift says filters won't be installed during testing, since doing so would significantly slow the process of ensuring all buildings are tested and that fixtures needing remediation are addressed immediately following the current rounds of testing during this school year. She adds that the plan is to install more hydration stations at high traffic locations, like near the cafeteria or gym or busy hallway intersections—"We will look at how the building is laid out and where there are natural traffic patterns."

> According to preliminary 2017 figures, of the 1,116 children tested who gave Ann Arbor addresses, just eleven had elevated levels of lead in their blood.

Depending on the size of the school, more than 100 may be installed, she says. There are already some in the schools that were given to the district as gifts from graduating classes.

It's unclear exactly how long the testing will take to complete. "Our role is to get this done very, very quickly. We are expediting this," Swift says. Mitigation will begin immediately following a high reading instead of waiting for all testing to be completed.

Swift says AAPS will restrict access to unsafe sources with signs and labels that say "not safe for drinking" for sources that are never intended to be used for drinking, like bathroom sinks. "I do understand the concern of parents who say 'what if my child goes to a room that has not been used for a while and takes the first drink?' " she says. "We will all be engaged in a fundamental education, teaching and learning process," spreading the word that it's important to let a water outlet run for a few seconds before drinking. "They'll be getting water in a lot of places. It's the best practice for us to follow no matter where we're drinking."

Meuninck believes AAPS is on the right course. With these caveats, she says there's still work to be done to ensure students and staff know which sources to use and which should be avoided. It's crucial to avoid a situation where "children are going up to a bubbler [drinking fountain] in a classroom if it's not a trusted source." But she points out, "We have a team full of educators who know how to reach children with messaging."

Swift says she's confident that AAPS will be a leader in the area of water quality. "We will continue to work on this plan," she said at an October meeting. "It is our desire to get to the lowest levels. We hope to see a day when it will be zero. That is our goal." ■

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Life on the Streets

Homeless in Ann Arbor

by Karen Crauder Snyder

I'm an Ann Arbor transplant, and I hail from "enemy" territory: I moved here six years ago from Columbus to join my partner, a U-M professor emeritus.

I was involved with the homeless community there as a professional researcher for a community coalition and as a volunteer providing hot meals in an inner-city church. One Sunday, I brought my camera to the church and offered to photograph anyone who wanted, promising to bring them prints, envelopes and stamps the next week so they could mail them to family and friends. Most did, and were delighted with the results.

In Ann Arbor, volunteering at Ten Thousand Villages on Main St., I noticed the homeless people who hang out in that area. I wondered who they were and how they lived, and decided to ask them if they'd talk to me for an article.

Some people were hesitant to be interviewed and photographed, but most were not. After all, how threatening can an older woman who walks with a slight limp be?

GEORGE

George refuses to use the system created to help homeless people in Ann Arbor. I met this a good-looking, slim, sixty-three-year-old African American veteran seated on a bench in Liberty Plaza. He said he'd been "kicked out by a woman who is into material things and not love. Because I paid off my fine to keep myself out of jail, she threw me out into the street."

George was irate. He felt the world in general and the woman in particular was unfair to him. He said he did a lot for her—washed dishes, rubbed her diabetic legs, whatever she wanted. But, he says, when he got his monthly payment from the government a few days ago, he sent half of it to support his seventeen-year-old daughter in Virginia, and he took the other half to the courthouse to pay the fine so he wouldn't go to jail for a misdemeanor—and when his woman learned this, she blew up. She was especially angry that his daughter didn't have his last name. And she kept shouting at him, "Are you selling your body to someone?"

So he was on the street, with no money, no food, no place to stay—just a heavy coat, one black roller bag, and a pack of cigarettes. He slept at the Baptist church nearby the past night and didn't know where he'd sleep tonight. He was starving, he said, and needed $20 or $30 for food plus at least $40 for a room.

George was irate at a woman "who is into material things and not love. Because I paid off my fine to keep myself out of jail, she threw me out onto the street."

I said he should go to the Delonis Center, where others had told me the food was free, good, and plentiful. He said he'd been there in the past but would never go again. "I deserve better!" he said emphatically. From other things he said, I suspected he may have been evicted from there as well.

He said that two men on the plaza had robbed him, but he stabbed one of them. He talked of past employment, including being in theater and working at the Beer Depot and Gandy Dancer as a dishwasher and cook. Health problems prevented him from working now, he said; he'd been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer at U of M, St. Joe's, and the VA.

George tended to toss in all the references he could think of: he said he went to Community High and Huron and graduated from U of M. During his monologue, he asked me for money time and again, saying God had sent me to the plaza to help him. I told him I was a nonbeliever, but that didn't faze him at all.

He said he'd experienced prejudice in Ann Arbor, when people would say to him, "Those people—you people. That always means, 'nigger,'" he said. "I ain't nobody's nigger no more." He showed me a picture of his daughter, a light-skinned teenager. "She's half white, but the nigger runs deep," he said with pride.

He said he had six children altogether. "Two in prison in Colorado, ready to get out. I sent them money. My youngest has triple degrees. Older one, too. Engineering degrees. Got in prison through stupidity."

He said he was looking for a blessing, and he was hoping I would give it to him. When I gave him five dollars to buy a sandwich, he wondered aloud how he would pay the tax on it.

I'd just seen him sell two cigarettes to one of his acquaintances in the plaza, and suggested he use that. He gave me a look of disgust, then softened and said, "Thank you."

Glen and Tasha both found places of their own through Ann Arbor's "effective one-stop shop."

GLEN, TASHA, AND JOHN

They were having a smoke while sitting on rocks in the parking lot on the corner of William and Ashley. I introduced myself as a freelance writer and asked if they knew where I could find homeless people to interview. They said they used to be homeless but no longer are.

Glen said that he is also a freelance writer, for *Groundcover News*. He was working on a story about hate crimes. "Two weeks ago I lost a friend from a hate crime," he said, a man named Ray Mason.

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Life on the Streets

"Homeless people all knew him. Guy picked up a tree limb and beat him to death, stripped off his clothes, and left him facedown in the water at Frog Island in Depot Town. He used to be homeless." The incident upset many in the homeless community. A suspect has been charged with the murder.

To benefit from the homeless system in Ann Arbor, they told me, "You have to focus on getting yourself together. You have to take care of yourself first." If you use the system and stay focused, they said, you don't stay homeless for long. "There's an effective one-stop shop here. An easy-to-use phone number. You go through that system, and everything else connects. And they have the means to help people, but you gotta get out there and help yourself.

"They're not going to sit there and wait for you. You gotta be willing to function. You can get right on your feet from here."

Glen said he'd been in Ann Arbor since he was sixteen. "My mom was a young teenager when she had me. She came out here and went to Eastern Michigan, Washtenaw Community College, and U of M. It made me uncomfortable because my graduation year I had my mom as a student teacher in my class. At night I go home—a two-bedroom apartment. I tend to hang with people who function like me. We pulled together."

Tasha had her own place, too, she said, thanks to Section 8 housing. Glen said he's going back to Washtenaw next year for culinary arts and computer training. "I'm hyperactive for a fifty-two-year-old. I just love Ann Arbor. It's the most user-friendly place I've ever encountered. I have a beautiful two-bedroom apartment in Ypsi. Rather be in Ann Arbor. Looking for a new spot here. Scared to go to Detroit. Had fun times in Detroit as a kid."

John said little. When I encountered him a little later on the street I understood his silence: he has some bad teeth, he said, and his mouth hurt a lot. He seemed to know where to go for dental help, possibly dentures, and was headed there after he left me.

TYRONE

On a drizzly, chilly Sunday, Tyrone sat outside Starbucks at Liberty and Main in his candy-apple–red electric wheelchair. Plastic bags hung on the back of his chair and a plastic donation cup was at his feet.

There was no embarrassment in his voice or face, just an open sunniness. I offered to buy him a coffee, and he smiled and said he'd meet me inside. He needed no help with the door. He seemed to be adept at getting around in what I was to learn was his usual neighborhood. I bought him a sandwich too.

He was close-shaven with curly black hair tinged with white, a fashionable stubble on his face, and a lightweight gray hoodie trimmed in white with a white

T-shirt peeking out at the neck. His khaki pants had a soft crease down each leg.

"I turned sixty in March," he said. "I had a stroke about five years back ... I had to learn to walk and talk and all that stuff. This left side is kind of paralyzed. Shortly after that I lost my wife. I lost my job. So I became homeless.

"I was a plumber. I got three kids. Eight grandkids." He said the kids help him out when they can, but they live in Saginaw, so he doesn't see them that much.

His parents brought him to Ann Arbor when he was twelve. His mother still lives here. He tries to panhandle enough so he can get a motel room every night in Ypsilanti for thirty-five dollars. He gets there with his bus card. "Sometimes I don't have enough, sometimes I do." If he doesn't, he might ride the bus most of the night or go to the U-M hospital and sleep on a couch in a waiting room. "As long as you don't make any commotion, they don't bother you." Other times he sleeps outside or at the Delonis Center or wherever he can. "You just have to find a spot that's comfortable."

He didn't appear to have enough clothes with him to sleep outside. He said he has a little stash spot, "an area that's secluded and nobody goes, so you just dump your bags right there. It works out OK."

He met his wife when he was eighteen and she was fourteen. They married four years later and were together until she died in her sleep two years ago, beside him in bed. He was not sure of the cause of death.

After tenth grade at Pioneer, he got kicked out for doing "all kinds of stupid stuff," he said. He advised his own three kids to stay in school.

"They all three graduated from Eastern ... Daughter is battling cancer right now. Throat cancer. Son works for a plastics company. Other son is a foreman here in town." I remembered he had said they all lived in Saginaw, but didn't say anything.

He has to plug in his wheelchair every night. If the battery runs out, he puts it on "free wheel" and pushes it from behind—he can walk as long as he has something to hold onto. He said he left an earlier chair outside a funeral home when he went to a service for his brother this past spring, and someone stole it. Medicaid replaced it.

His favorite things to do are fishing on the Huron, especially with his grandkids, and watching TV.

He said folks around here are nice to him, providing meals and coffee when he needs them. He's a regular at the Delonis Center: "Free meals and a place to sleep, if they have room available. They let you shower and shave and all that stuff. You have to be sober, no drugs and stuff like that."

He quit drinking in 1983 when "I almost went to prison, so that helped me quit. Got picked up seven times for drunken driving. In jail for two years for that. At least you have meals and a place to sleep. I like it when they put me in jail so I have a place to stay."

"Do you have friends in the community?" I asked.

"Since I got in this condition, nobody wants to be bothered with me. So I stay alone a lot."

But every morning, he said, the folks at Chase Bank on Main St. bring him coffee and doughnuts. "A lot of them get to know me. So, it's pretty good. There's a few mean people out there, but not very many." He's never been robbed, but he's been "jumped" by other homeless people who wanted his prime panhandling spot.

He's on disability—$688 a month, put on a prepaid debit card. "Staying in the hotel rooms eats it up real fast," he said.

I asked if he had enough money for a room that night.

"Well, I about need about $25 more. I should be able to make it."

"Since I got in this condition, nobody wants to be bothered with me," Tyrone said. "So I stay alone a lot." He's a regular at the Delonis Center—"free meals and a place to sleep, if they have room available." If they don't, he tries to panhandle enough for a $35 motel room in Ypsi.

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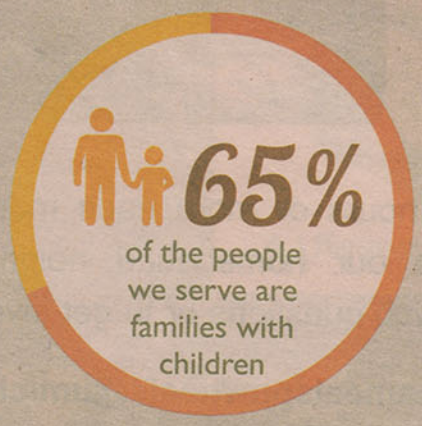

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Life on the Streets

I said I'd help him a little. He had never asked for anything.

At Starbucks, "I usually just come and sit outside. I don't come inside very often. They never complain here. Other places don't want you sitting outside their business. They call the police on you. And you have to move."

His biggest fear, he said, is "when I'm down here at night … a lot of homeless people see you getting stuff, and they want it, try to take it from you.

"I'm just a nice person. Homeless doesn't mean nothin'. They think all homeless people are dirt. They're not."

MIRANDA AND MICHAEL

When I approached them in Liberty Plaza, Michael at first was a little hostile, saying, "If I refuse to answer a question, it's my choice!" I assured him I wouldn't be demanding anything of him, I just wondered about their lives.

On and off, both have been homeless for about five years. They and some others spent the previous night on a concrete porch nearby. "At a church or some sort of building, I don't really know," said Michael. "Tonight I have no idea. We go to Delonis for meals.

"The food is good. They do a very good job. Feed anyone who comes in," said Michael. Miranda agreed. She said she was "dealt a bad hand of cards in my life. Too many obstacles. And then you play it wrong. Even though you try to do your best, it's gonna fall short."

She graduated from high school with honors in Livingston County, she said, went to college, and was an apprentice real estate appraiser. She was married for twelve years. "I have three kids, well, four. My first one died right after he was born. There have been a lot of deaths in my family, ten in two years. And I just lost my mind. So I'm kind of a gypsy for the past few years.

"Down here, in this area, it's like one big family," she said. "We love and hate all of each other here in the plaza. Everybody goes to different areas to sleep, in tents, in the woods, then when we wake up we meet up. Breakfast, lunch, dinner. It's one big homeless family.

"We may not understand each other, but we still love each other. We're considered a group. All of us here in the park. It's a love-hate relationship all day." Her own kids "are in New York with my ex-husband. They are doing OK.

"I'm still breathing. One day at a time."

"I don't have to be homeless, but I will be," Michael said. "Scares the shit out of me. I'm thirty-two, from Wayne County. Went to Colorado, Tennessee, Florida. Florida is where I went homeless. Was in a clinical trial in Kansas. New form of hydro …" He got confused and trailed off.

A large African American man came up and gave Miranda a big hug, calling her, "A fine specimen of an Anglo-Saxon Caucasian female." She hugged him back.

"It's very good here," Michael said. "Best place to be. The cops respect you. They pulled up to me this morning and asked how they could help me. Fucking really good. They let me use their cell phone. Fucking best cops in my life. Worst are in Battle Creek. Been arrested over 100 times. I drink too much sometimes. If you offer me a line of cocaine I will snort it. Alcohol is my drug of choice."

"Ninety percent of us have a mental disorder," Miranda said. "Bipolar, PTSD, multiple personality disorder, an alphabet soup of disorders. I can sit here and be cute and calm, then I could attack you. Cute, cuddly, and then really bitchy. I was diagnosed at St. Joseph in Ypsilanti. Have a psychiatrist at U of M. I have a cell phone but can't charge it. Lost my cord."

"There have been a lot of deaths in my family ... And I just lost my mind," Miranda said. "So I'm kind of a gypsy for the past few years."

Delonis is good, Michael said. "They fill you up. They have a shelter, but I don't sleep there. Can shower, have a locker room, free soap, shampoo, towels, toothbrush, toothpaste, fresh underclothes. They take care of you."

They left, heading down Liberty toward Delonis for dinner. After about forty minutes, they all came back.

I hoped we could talk some more, but a friend brought over a fresh deck of cards and started dealing. Another friend was on the periphery, talking. A third brought a bottle of booze to pass. Miranda took a swig and said: "It helps to take the edge off." The interview was over. ■

WARM THE CHILDREN

Providing New Winter Clothing for Local Children in Need

In July 2017, Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor became the new sponsor of the Warm the Children program. For 23 years in Washtenaw County, the Warm the Children program has helped to provide new warm winter clothing for children in need. Without your help, many of these children would have to face our cold Michigan winter without coats, hats, boots or mittens.

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The Zingerman's Times

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Roaster's Pick Coffee
holiday blend

For this year's Holiday Blend, we started with our favorite estate coffees from Costa Rica and Brazil. For complexity and balance, we added a bit of a cooperative-grown coffee from Colombia. The resulting blend is rich, layered, and smooth with hints of cocoa. Celebrate the season—you and your coffee, comfort and joy.

Cheese of the Month
manchesters

Meet the Manchesters, award-winning cow's milk cheeses from Zingerman's Creamery!

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Washtenaw - Brushed with saison, this wonderfully balanced washed-rind cheese adds the perfect umami kick to your favorite dishes.

Grand Traverse - This sweet, creamy cheese is smothered in Soaked in semi-dry Riesling wine.

Manistique - Manchester cow's milk cheese wrapped in cabbage leaves. Amazing left wrapped and thrown on the grill!

Zingerman's Deli Dinners a go-go

a delicious deli dinner in 20 minutes or less in ann arbor!

From busy families to time-starved students, Ann Arborites are buzzing about Zingerman's Deli Dinners A Go-Go.

"They nailed it!" says one customer, who reports that these convenient meals, which include a main dish, side and veggies, come with easy-to-follow reheat instructions and are ready to enjoy in 20 minutes or less. *Zingerman's Times* has it on good authority that December dinners are the best yet, with options like Cece's Cheesy Lasagna, Amish Chicken Pot Pie, and Pot Roast Beef Stew all available to order right now! Guests can visit zcob.me/delidinners to see the schedule and order a delicious dinner—dinners are available Wednesday-Friday every week, orders must be made the Sunday prior by midnight.

ring in the new year with oysters and bubbles at zingerman's roadhouse

New Year's Eve revelers around town are saving the date for one of the most sparkling events of the season: NYE at Zingerman's Roadhouse! Taste buds will be tickled with the restaurant's special Oysters and Bubbles menu, featuring M. Lawrence sparkling wines from Larry Mawby in Leelanau Peninsula. Bar Manager, Sarah Bartlett, tells *Zingerman's Times* that she loves pairing Mawby's cool climate wines with our Roadhouse's exceptional oysters because they stand up well to the delicious special dishes Chef Bob Bennett will be offering with his selection of oysters this year.

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Cheese lovers everywhere are re-discovering Parmigiano Reggiano.

Known as the "King of Cheeses" in Italy, it's still one of the most underrated here in U.S. But, Zingerman's is on a mission to change all that and put it where it belongs—at the center of the cheese plate! Just in time for the holidays, zingermans.com is now offering a Parmigiano Reggiano Club, three months of parm produced by tiny dairies in the Parma region. Each shipment lets you compare cheeses of different ages, locales, and milk sources. It even comes with a parm knife and info about each variety! Our favorite foodies tell us it makes a fantastic and unique gift for the culinary explorers in their lives, and some are even buying it up for themselves! "Taste any of these parms just once, and you'll never touch that stuff in the green can again!" says one customer.

Find out more and order yours at zingermans.com

salute your staff with a party at miss kim!

Hard workers around town say that a great staff party is a wonderful way for companies to show appreciation. And bosses in the know are moving their holiday soirées out of the office for a holiday extravaganza experience! A great spot for a truly special event? According to locals we've spoken to, Miss Kim, the Kerrytown Korean restaurant, is the perfect place for a private party. Delicious Korean dishes and fabulous craft cocktails add some serious flavor to the season, and Miss Kim's fantastic service will make your whole team feel appreciated for a year well done!

zingerman's southside—your one stop shop for stocking stuffers for food lovers!

"The stockings were hung by the chimney with care…" but were they stuffed to the brim with Zingerman's treats?! The most savvy gift givers in town are revealing their best kept holiday secrets, and the one we keep hearing over and over again here at Zingerman's Times is that the best stocking-stuffing treats are to found on Zingerman's Southside. Bags of coffee from the Coffee Company, the Candy Manufactory's buttery cashew brittle (store exclusive!), really big cookies individually packaged by the Bakehouse, and gift cards are all popular choices, but some tell us that they like to mix it up with unexpected extras like jams and bottles of wine from the Creamery shelves. Come be inspired during the season of giving at Zingerman's Southside!

attention food lovers!

Sign up to receive "*Ari's Top 5*" emails to learn what Ari is excited about throughout the land of Zing! zcob.me/at5

If you're looking for some long reads, check out our blog at: zingermanscommunity.com

For short reads, follow us on Twitter @zingermans and Instagram @zingermanscommunity

Chef's Dinners

At the Apparatus Room and Takoi

KATHERINE DOWNIE

My family stopped exchanging Christmas gifts, except for the tykes, some years ago. But many of us still want to engage in the holiday spirit and enjoy bringing family together in ways that might spark new conversations, intimate moments, and warm memories. So we look for shows or concerts, a new museum exhibition or an educational hike, or maybe a special restaurant to which we can invite everyone—make it our treat, we say, and Merry Christmas to all.

Two restaurant dinners I shared this fall, though not inexpensive, suggested themselves to me as perfect venues for such an adventure. Both the Apparatus Room and Takoi are in Detroit, where an evening's itinerary can be enhanced with a tour of the reanimated city. And both offer chef's dinners, where diners put the meal's makeup entirely in the hands of the kitchen—a potentially marvelous avenue for celebrating the season of giving, sharing, and, yes, maybe even excess.

Chef's dinners, at least as done here, differ from similar "tasting menus" by presenting multiple courses family style, with bowls and platters set on the table for people to help themselves. Diners can dig directly out of the bowl, or heap a bit onto their own plate, or pass the platter from person to person—an informal, generous, and convivial way to eat. And the less formal presentation means the server interrupts conversations only for a quick description, elaborating only if asked, rather than effectively killing it with the regimented scripts of tasting menus.

The Apparatus Room takes up much of the first floor of the Detroit Foundation Hotel, situated in the shadow of the Cobo Center. Barely a year old, the hotel was fashioned from a former firehouse. The restaurant is in the old equipment room, with expansive windows fitted into the space's fire-engine red bays. The décor is stylish and urbane yet hospitable and inviting. A large U-shaped marble bar, draped with a curtain of hanging vintage-style light bulbs, centers the room. Outfitted with plush seating and a pendant fireplace, a casual lounge faces the street, while the dining area sits between the opposite side of the bar and the open kitchen. Here, cozy easy chairs grace many of the two-tops, and deep, comfortable banquettes—with pillows and throws—line the sides of long, polished wood tables. Creamy subway tiles and Persian rugs warm the room. The space can be noisy, but I've never found conversation there a problem. Servers are uniformly knowledgeable without pretensions, gracious, and very good at their jobs.

The restaurant's executive chef is Thomas Lents, a Battle Creek native who, as chef de cuisine at the eponymous Joël Robuchon in Las Vegas, helped that restaurant maintain three Michelin stars and then later earned his own two at Sixteen in Chicago. His move back to Michigan has brought him to a more casual, less pricey venue that serves breakfast, brunch, lunch, and dinner. His changing dinner menu is bold, inventive, but approachable, sprinkled with sly references to the city—a fabulous "coney-style" Bolognese sauce made with beef heart and a J.L. Hudson Maurice salad—with prices typical for fine dining in the area. (The wine list, though, offers no bargains, with wines-by-the-bottle listed under categories of $55, $75, $95, and the three-figure "Commissioner's List.")

The Apparatus Room's Thomas Lents, a Battle Creek native who earned two Michelin stars at Sixteen in Chicago, is a chef not to be missed.

Lents's "chef's choice"—not to be confused with the much more expensive "chef's table"—is a family-style multicourse meal served to an entire table for market price—approximately $85 per person without tax and tip. The chef's choice is always available for as few as two, though it can run out early on busy nights.

I've enjoyed several meals at the Apparatus Room, twice as part of this family-style option. Both times I found the meal extraordinary and an incredible value in quality and quantity. Lents is a chef not to be missed.

One evening in September, two friends, who split their time between a home in Ann Arbor and a riverside apartment in Detroit, accompanied my husband and me for their first visit to the Apparatus Room. After surveying Lents's menu, they declared the tempting options too numerous for easy decisions and were delighted when I suggested the chef's choice. We all settled back into our cushions to catch up on news—a son recently married, city living, the nearby grandchildren—and enjoy a well-orchestrated feast of six courses, some with multiple options.

Highlights included elegant, creamy Willapa Bay oysters, piqued by a daring foil of icy cherry-horseradish granita, and a compressed cantaloupe salad, the orange ovals dressed with a sprightly watermelon relish, goat cheese, pine nuts, sliced caper berries, dried hot peppers, and fried garlic. The latter plate offered such an intriguing juxtaposition of sweet, piquant, salt, sour, and toasted that we all leaned forward to sneak yet another forkful.

The pasta dishes elicited similar reactions: our friends exclaiming over the semolina cavatelli, dressed with braised suckling pig, kale, Fresno chilies, and cheese, while I found the rigatoni, smoky with cured whitefish, suavely rich in its pea purée and egg yolk jam, pure heaven.

The main course—and the one that had finally sold us on the chef's option that evening—was a braised pork collar (the meaty portion of the neck near the shoulder) of Mangalitsa pig, a hairy heritage animal, exceptionally fatty and therefore exceptionally flavored and succulent. Originating from Hungary, the pigs are raised in Michigan at Utica Farms. Our waiter said it was the best part of the best pig he had ever eaten, and none of us disagreed. Accompanying the meat were lovely vegetable sides, including Lents's version of Joël Robuchon's famous potato purée, as much butter as tuber.

With dessert to come, we saved some of the main course for take-home boxes. Cherries being a personal favorite, I was particularly pleased by our prudence when presented with a "Black Forest torte."

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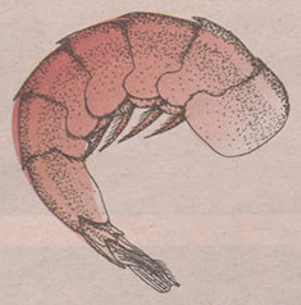

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Oaty, chocolatey, fruity, creamy, and not too sweet, it put the feather on the cap of a fabulous meal, one to appreciate again as we later admired the sunset over the Detroit River from our friends' living room windows.

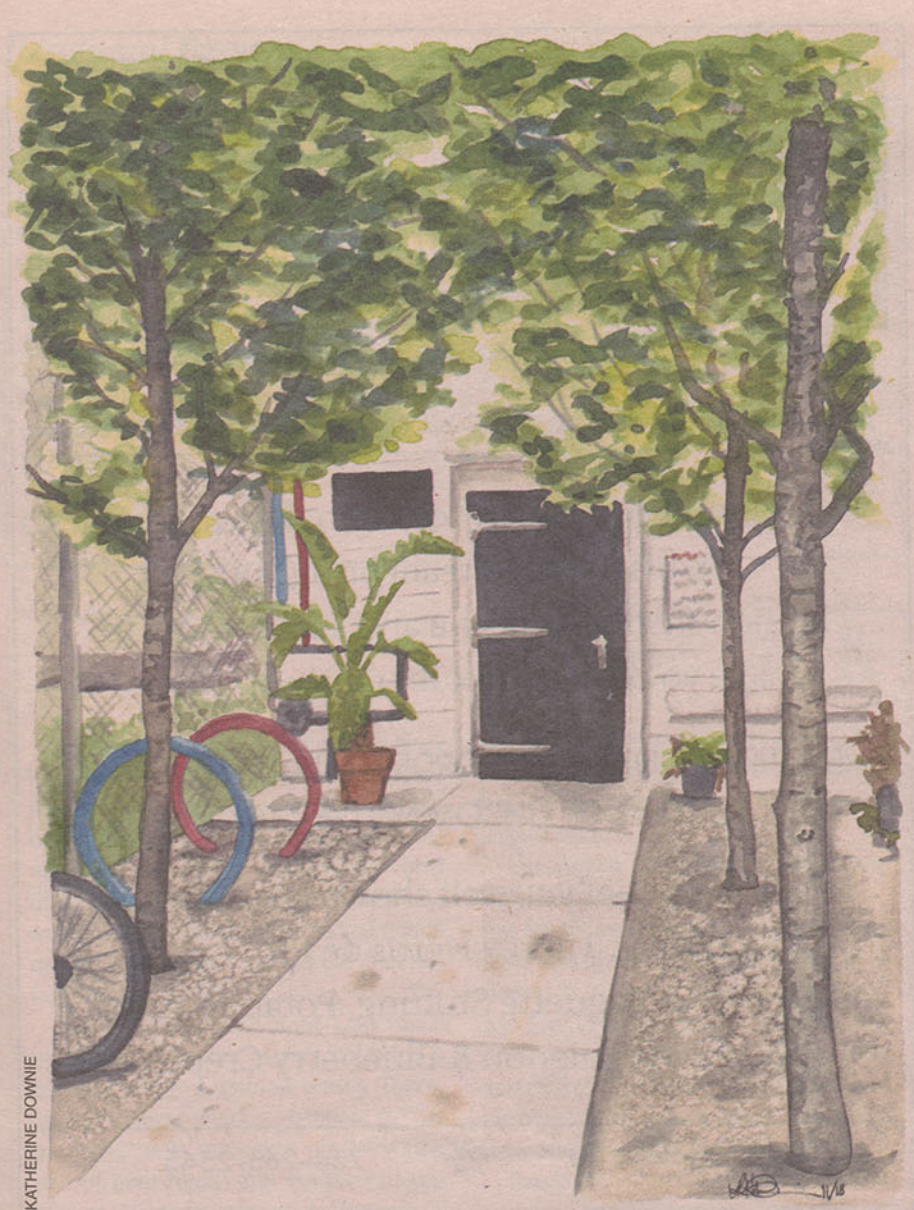
Equally excellent, Takoi might be best suited for family and friends truly primed for adventurous dining. Brad Greenhill, a self-taught chef, is the driving force behind Takoi's Thai-inspired menu, first presented out of a Detroit food truck, then honed at Ann Arbor pop-ups and a temporary gig at the old Jerusalem Garden space on Fifth Ave. Having endured some rough patches since leaving Ann Arbor for Detroit, including controversy over the restaurant's original name, Katoi, and an arson fire, Greenhill and Takoi have garnered national recognition, including a James Beard nomination for best new restaurant in 2017. His way with food is intuitive, inspired, and sure.

Ensconced on Michigan Avenue near the old train station, Takoi looks more like a candidate for urban renewal than an inviting place to dine: Punctured at the front by a recycled corrugated steel shipping container, the cement-block building sits in a gravel patio surrounded by a sixteen-foot high cyclone fence. Newly planted maples do little to soften the hard edges. Inside the meat-locker entrance door, polycarbonate plastic walls glow like a saltwater aquarium at the bar, and simple tables, chairs, and banquettes crowd the small dining room beyond, bookended on the other side by an open kitchen.

Brad Greenhill is the driving force behind Takoi's Thai-inspired menu, first presented out of a Detroit food truck, then honed at Ann Arbor pop-ups and a temporary gig at the old Jerusalem Garden space.

I was rather grumpy when five of us, loaded with coats and bags, were shown to a narrow, three-sided banquette meant—at the most—for four. I grabbed a stool and sat myself on the fourth side, admittedly in the aisle but willing to get knocked by a server's elbow rather than eat squeezed tight between my friends. As it was, I survived the evening untouched and we enjoyed service that was casual and hip but knowledgeable, friendly, and efficient.

Takoi's "chef's dinner"—available only for parties of four to twelve—requires preregistration and prepayment. Moreover, the reservations, $65 per person before tax and tip—which are also prepaid—are final and nonrefundable, though they can be transferred to others. A $35 drink package, which pairs alcoholic beverages to the meal, can be ordered in advance or added at the restaurant.



KATHERINE DOWNIE

Our group, primed for dinner after an afternoon at the Detroit Institute of Arts, sat down hoping to be entranced and found ourselves utterly seduced. Asked first about food allergies, spice levels, and how hungry we were—and then repeatedly as dinner continued so the kitchen could gauge what to send out next or to end the meal—we never gave in to satiation, too afraid, as the incredible meal continued, we might miss out.

Thirteen courses were sent out, all from the regular menu. And though we were contemplating waistlines when dessert arrived, we weren't overwhelmed; vegetables constituted many of the courses, and portions were judicious. Our sole—very minor—reservation involved the beverage package, about five different cocktails and wines that evening, which we found less compelling than the food and not always the best match for what we were eating.

With some in the group's last visit to the DIA a decade or two previous, excited impressions dominated the conversation, punctuated often, however, by exclamations about the food. Eager agreement flew around the table—"this is absolutely the best egg roll I've ever eaten"—after we finished a couple of genre-defining specimens, stuffed with succulent braised beef brisket, the crispy shells wrapped in soft leaves of Bibb lettuce. A fabulously authentic *som tum thai*—the fiery shredded green papaya, long bean, and peanut salad—followed. Charred greens with a dusting of curried puffed rice, though complex in flavor, offered a temporary reprieve from chilies; silky yellowtail crudo, enhanced with local tomatoes and herbs, gently returned us. Only the wedges of stir-fried Persian cucumbers sparked debate, some finding the texture disagreeable, others of us pleasantly intrigued by the combination of Szechuan peppercorns, crispy shallots, puréed tofu, and warm, salted vegetable.

Were we full yet? No? Out came sea scallops, suavely enrobed in a dressing of satiny young coconut, lemongrass, and mint, followed by two more sizzling plates.

Were we full yet? No? Individual pork ribs, fried crispy and drizzled with a fish sauce caramel and watermelon cubes, gave us serious bones to gnaw on.

Could we stand one more? We could. And out came the whole fish, the last and most majestic course in many Asian cuisines—here, a whole fried snapper in tamarind sauce, delectable in its simplicity.

To finally end the meal we were presented two desserts—a comforting banana pudding and an entrancing cardamom-laced nectarine ice cream sandwich—and left as captivated by the art we had tasted as that we had seen on the museum walls.

The best part of both dinners? Each restaurant gave us an evening to remember—not just an enjoyable meal or exceptional service or appealing surroundings, all memorable—but the space and leave to sit back and share with friends and family well loved and appreciated. What better gift to give this season?

—Lee Lawrence

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Vegetarian and vegan items indicated on menu

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table talk

In a perfect world, we'd always have homemade cookies from an old family recipe on hand for guests and gifts during the holidays. In reality, we usually dash out into a snow-globe world to buy the next best thing. Fortunately, **an abundance of alluring baked goods** can be yours in and around the Ann Arbor Farmers Market.

On Saturdays and (until Christmas) on Wednesdays, the market itself has a growing array of options. Sherry Toney, known to many market shoppers as "the pie lady," sells miniature pie bites (the size of petit fours) that double as samples to help customers decide which bigger pie to buy. Or just trust me on the sweet potato pie, full of caramel sweetness and actual heft. Toney says she's considering making rum cakes for Christmas, so maybe start asking about that in early December?

At Zingerman's Deli (which new pedestrian islands will soon make easier to reach from the market), cranberry pecan bread joins four flavors of rich and flaky rugelach as seasonal staples. The inspired chocolate tahini and "New Deli" coffee cakes (the latter with cardamom and other cozy spice notes) are "on vacation," but you can still grab classic little cakes like sour cream, gingerbread, and hot cocoa, with a slight coffee flavor and chunks of chocolate (tell the recipient to heat it to make the chocolate gooey).

For your celiac friends, market vendor Tasty Bakery has artisanal gluten-free treats. And for those vegan folks at the table, the nearby Lunch Room in Kerrytown and the Detroit Street Filling Station in the old Argiero's sell their companion bakery's vegan cupcakes, star-sprinkled donuts, iced brownies, cookies, etc. (they have gluten-free options, too). Nearby on N. Main, Vedge Café always has a couple choice vegan sweets on hand—including, I hope, the lovely caramel apple tarts they featured for Thanksgiving.

—M.B. Lewis

❧ ❧ ❧

Ann Arbor's restaurant scene gets unnervingly quiet on Christmas, when most restauranteurs and their employees take the day off. That makes it **the biggest day of the year for Chinese restaurants.**

Evergreen Restaurant in Plymouth Mall has opened at 11 a.m. every Christmas for the past twenty-seven years and has a steady stream of customers until closing at 10 p.m. "We are very busy," says Lin Zhu, Evergreen's business coordinator. "We all work really, really hard. Even the carryouts and deliveries are bigger. We notice many customers order enough dishes for entire families."

Panda House in Maple Village is also hopping. "Moms don't want to cook on holidays, and Wendy's and McDonald's are all closed," explains owner Jenny Zhang.

Immigrant Jewish families were "doing Chinese" on Christmas as early as 1899, according to a report that year in a New York City newspaper. An atlantic.com article last year pointed out that Jews and Chinese were the largest non-Christian minority groups living in New York's lower east side at the time. The other major immigrant groups—Irish, Italians, Germans, and Mexicans—all celebrated the holiday. And since Chinese cuisine is virtually dairy-free, it let Jews experiment while observing the kosher proscription against mixing meat and dairy at the same meal.

Today, Ann Arbor's Chinese restauranteurs see a cross-section of customers on Christmas, including Jewish families, Asian families, and students who are too far away to go home for the holidays. Having enough food to feed them and enough staff to serve them takes planning and resourcefulness.

After an uptick in Christmas dining over the past several years, Evergreen now encourages reservations on that day. They plan their orders carefully in advance so they do not run out of provisions at a time when all their suppliers are closed. At Panda House, Zhang suspends her usual delivery service that day—and corrals additional family members to come in to work and help out with the holiday onslaught.

—Linda R. Benson

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CHEF'S TABLE
by Sam Seaver

As we start to see snow on the ground, I start to think about rich, hearty meals that help fuel me through the cold days. This month we are featuring just such a meal on a tortilla! A beef short rib taco. We sear and braise both bone-in and boneless short ribs in a rich broth that includes some smoky dried chiles and winter spices such as allspice and cloves. After hours in the oven, we are rewarded with a hearty, smoky, slightly spicy, rich and tender taco filling. Topped with a little bit of our pink pickled onions to cut the richness, it's a perfect winter time taco.

FARMERS MARKET WATCH
By Jeremy Seaver

A little switch up this month. Normally my brother would be telling you about all the great winter vegetables we are enjoying this month. But he wrote about the taco of the month. So I want to tell you about the great opportunity, that's right I said opportunity, to buy Tios gift cards this month. If you spend $50 you get $10 for yourself. If you spend $100 you get $25. How can you afford not to buy these? And they are available both in-store and online through our website. Just click on the Buy Gift Card Online button. Spread the joy and keep a little for yourself. You deserve it.

HOT HEADS
by Dr. Sauss

Want a gift whose delight lasts well past the unwrapping? One that excites their senses every time they open it again? A carefully chosen selection from our array of over 300 hot sauces and salsas is just the thing. They run the gamut from deliciously titillating to "good grief what have I done to my taste-buds" Our staff can help you choose a nice assortment or a single perfect stocking stuffer—we can even make up an attractive basket, bow and all. Top it off with a bag of our homemade habanero cashew brittle and your gift will be the hit of the season!

FATHER TEQUILA
by Jeremy Seaver

One thing you will notice about Tequila Ocho is their claim to be a single estate tequila. What this means is that all of the agaves used in this tequila were grown on the same plantation. The reason this is important is that growing conditions greatly affect the flavor of the agave. Soil, weather, and the oxygen levels all contribute to the flavor. This expression comes from the highlands: damper soil with high iron content resulting in a lighter, more floral taste. You will get more citrus and vanilla and less spicy, black peppery flavors. Great to pair with root vegetables like mashed potatoes or sweet potato pie. Enjoy.

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Marketplace Changes

A Boba Oasis on Main

Sue Patel hopes people will like what she likes.

"I'm a picky eater," says Sue Patel, "so I hope for all the picky eaters out there, I have something for them." She's filled her new **Oasis Cafe** with things she likes: frozen yogurt, ice cream, raw juice, soups, salads, paninis, and bubble tea in a wide range of flavors (she recommends the chai) and a choice of tapioca, bursting, and jelly pearls. "Boba" tea has been available near campus for a while now, but Oasis is the first place on Main St. to serve it.

Patel (whose full first name is Suhasini) grew up in Kenya, and both African and Indian influences are evident in ice creams made with brightly colored candied nuts, spice variations, and Alphonso mangoes. In early November, her seasonal frozen yogurt flavors included pumpkin spice, chocolate orange, and cinnamon.

Oasis replaced DaVinci's Salon. Patel's parents bought both the salon and Shalimar restaurant next door in 2016. They closed the salon last spring and were looking for a new tenant. At the time, Patel was working full-time as an ER nurse at Henry Ford Hospital, but she'd already decided she wanted to try her own venture (though she'll likely keep one or two nursing shifts a week). She says her family shares ownership of the business, but they've given her free rein.

Patel is counting on the salads, wraps, and paninis to bring in customers as the weather gets colder. It's a smart move. On a cold and rainy day in November, before she'd added them to the menu, a group came in to look around, but ultimately one of them announced, "We'll come back in better weather!" Once it's warm again, Patel plans to add smoothies.

Oasis Cafe, 305 S. Main. (734) 882–2148. Daily 10 a.m.–10:30 p.m.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Patel grew up in Kenya, and African and Indian influences are evident in ice creams made with brightly colored candied nuts, spice variations, and mangoes.

Beloved Businesses in Transition

Common Language is closing, and Bagel Fragel has lost its lease.

When a Tumblr post encouraging people to order from the struggling **Common Language Bookstore** went viral last spring, husbands Keith Orr and Martin Contreras thought at first that the Internet might save their small LGBT bookstore from the very problems it had created for them.

"We got some really nice online sales, and we thought 'Oh, this is gonna do it for us,' " says Orr. But the bump subsided, and they found themselves back where they started, with a beloved but increasingly unsustainable business.

Common Language—originally focused primarily on lesbian and feminist books—opened in 1991 on S. Fourth Ave. "Had we not bought it in 2003, it probably would have closed back then" says Contreras. "It was our favorite bookstore" adds Orr. "It just seemed unimaginable not having a gay bookstore in Ann Arbor—but here we are."

In 2005 they moved it to a building they owned next door to the Aut Bar. That allowed them to avoid rising rent costs, but in a time where nearly half of all book sales in the U.S. are on Amazon, that wasn't enough. Two days after they announced a store-closing sale, they didn't sell a thing all day. "Zero sales days, you just can't survive that," says Orr.

Martin Contreras and Keith Orr bought Common Language in 2003 and moved it next to their Aut Bar in 2005. "It just seemed unimaginable not having a gay bookstore in Ann Arbor," says Orr, "but here we are."

Everything in the store is currently 30 percent off, and the discount will increase to 50 percent in mid-December. Orr and Contreras say it's possible the store will continue in some form online, but they have yet to make concrete plans.

"Martin and I are ready to retire," Orr says. They are planning on selling all four of their Braun Court buildings—Aut Bar, Common Language, the Jim Toy Community Center, and Spiral Tattoo—but they expect to continue running the bar after the building is sold. They will focus their efforts there for the foreseeable future.

"It's going to be a difficult adjustment for us," says Orr, "and the community. We've been happy to be stewards of this place."

Common Language Bookstore, 317 Braun Ct. (734) 663–0036. Open through Dec. 21. Sun. & Mon. 11 a.m.–6 p.m., Tue.–Thurs. 11 a.m.–9 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.–10 p.m. glbtbooks.com

❧❧❧

After a viral article and a whirlwind of community support, **MD Bagel Fragel** mother-and-son owners Patricia and Michael Rockette still aren't sure the twenty-five-year-old business (and only home of the deep-fried Fragel) will make it to 2019.

In October, the two were told by their landlord's lawyer that they had two days to vacate their spot in Broadway Square, the small strip mall on Plymouth across from the Courtyard Shops. "I called the lawyer and was like 'OK, I've got twenty years' worth of equipment in here. We're currently open," says Patricia. "How can I be out in two days when I'm still baking and making everything?"

The lawyer relented and gave them until November 30—and Patricia started telling customers that would be their last day. One of them happened to be a WDIV-TV reporter, which led to an article on the station's website that was shared over Facebook. An uproar followed.

Bagel and Fragel fans found the work number and email address for the landlord's lawyer. They let him know of their dissatisfaction—and also flooded the shop with so much business that Patricia says she has "sold out every day since the article came out" and has had to close early.

Marketplace Changes

It worked—kind of. The lawyer called Patricia to tell her she could stay through December, but she would have to pay triple her previous rent.

The shopping center has been sold, and it appears that the bagel shop will be replaced by a marijuana retailer. The Rockettes weren't sure if the two events were connected, but it looks like they are: the Ohio company that bought Broadway Square is listed as Navarre Crossings, LLC. According to city records, Martin Yousif has applied for a permit to sell marijuana at Broadway Square. Yousif appears to be a partner with Key Hotel and Property Management, which owns a Navarre Plaza in Ohio and used to own a Navarre Crossings there.

Since the public outcry, Bagel Fragel has added a website and social media accounts with links to a community-led GoFundMe page raising money for a potential relocation. Despite the outpouring of support, Patricia doesn't think the landlords will grant another extension. "The people from Ohio don't know the Ann Arbor community," she says. "They don't know about the history of the Fragel—and they don't care."

MD Bagel Fragel, 1760 Plymouth (Broadway Square). (734) 332–1020. (Open through Dec. 31). Mon. 6 a.m.–1 p.m., Tue.–Sun. 6 a.m.–2 p.m. bagelfragel.com

Briefly noted

"My whole philosophy of skin care is really about everything. Lifestyle and diet and even spirituality," says Katie West, owner of **K.WEST Skin Body Soul.** Her shop, which carries a variety of crystals, books, supplements, and her own skin care line, occupies the bottom floor of a house on N. Main, while she runs her day spa upstairs.

Originally a web designer with a degree from the U-M, West discovered her love of skin care and spirituality while living in New York City. She studied at an Ayurvedic spa there, and after returning to Ann Arbor opened a small studio above the People's Food Co-Op. West is a living ad for her practice: she's thirty-nine, but her face is going on twenty-two.

The move to Main St. coincided with the debut of her K.WEST line of products she's developed for her custom facials. So far there are Ayurvedic balancing oils, hydration mists, body oils, and facial cleansers. She also sells crystals and polished rocks, all of which have small cards explaining their spiritual properties (blue agate for tranquility, black obsidian to focus and de-stress). West says the jewelry she sells has similar metaphysical properties. Add beeswax candles, Japanese "smokeless" incense, and herbal supplements, and you're ready to start centering yourself.

K.WEST Skin Body Soul, 415 N. Main. (734) 436–8991. Tue. 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Wed. & Thurs. 9 a.m.–8 p.m., Fri. 9 a.m.–6 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Closed Sun. & Mon. kwestskinbodysoul.com

❧ ❧ ❧

The Graduate Hotel chain has rebranded its coffee bars as **Poindexter Coffee.** The general manager of the hotel on Huron, Jason Nelson, says that they've added new breakfast sandwiches (available all day), plus beer and wine. The design of the lobby café remains the same, though a hanging velvet letter board now announces its alcoholic offerings.

Why Poindexter (often understood as retro slang for a nerd)? "I've asked that same question as well," Nelson says. "I think our owners just liked the name!"

Nelson hopes the café will bring in more students and locals. He says the café and the lobby's long wooden library-style table are not just for hotel guests. "Stop in, say hi!" he says. "It's an open community hotel."

Poindexter Coffee (inside the Graduate Hotel), 615 E. Huron. (734) 769–2200. 6 a.m.–6 p.m. daily. graduatehotels.com

Closings

Two downtown businesses closed quietly in November, leaving only brief announcements on their doors. Plymouth-based raw juice vendor **Drought** closed its S. Fourth Ave. location a little over a year after it moved in. Four metro Detroit locations remain open, and a new store in Detroit has been announced on its website. The four James sisters-turned-co-owners could not be reached for comment.

Pieology shut down four Michigan franchise locations in early November, including one on E. Liberty. "We have truly enjoyed sharing our love of pizza with the Ann Arbor, Royal Oak, Warren and Bloomfield Hills communities," read a post on the brand's Twitter account. "However, after sincere consideration, it has been determined these locations will no longer be active." Franchisees Todd Holden and Robert Kurnick Jr. declined to comment.

❧ ❧ ❧

The **Blue Apple** convenience store (and Mobil gas station) has closed after seven years at Packard and Platt. You can still grab gas and snacks at the Exxon station across the way and a Citgo further down the road.

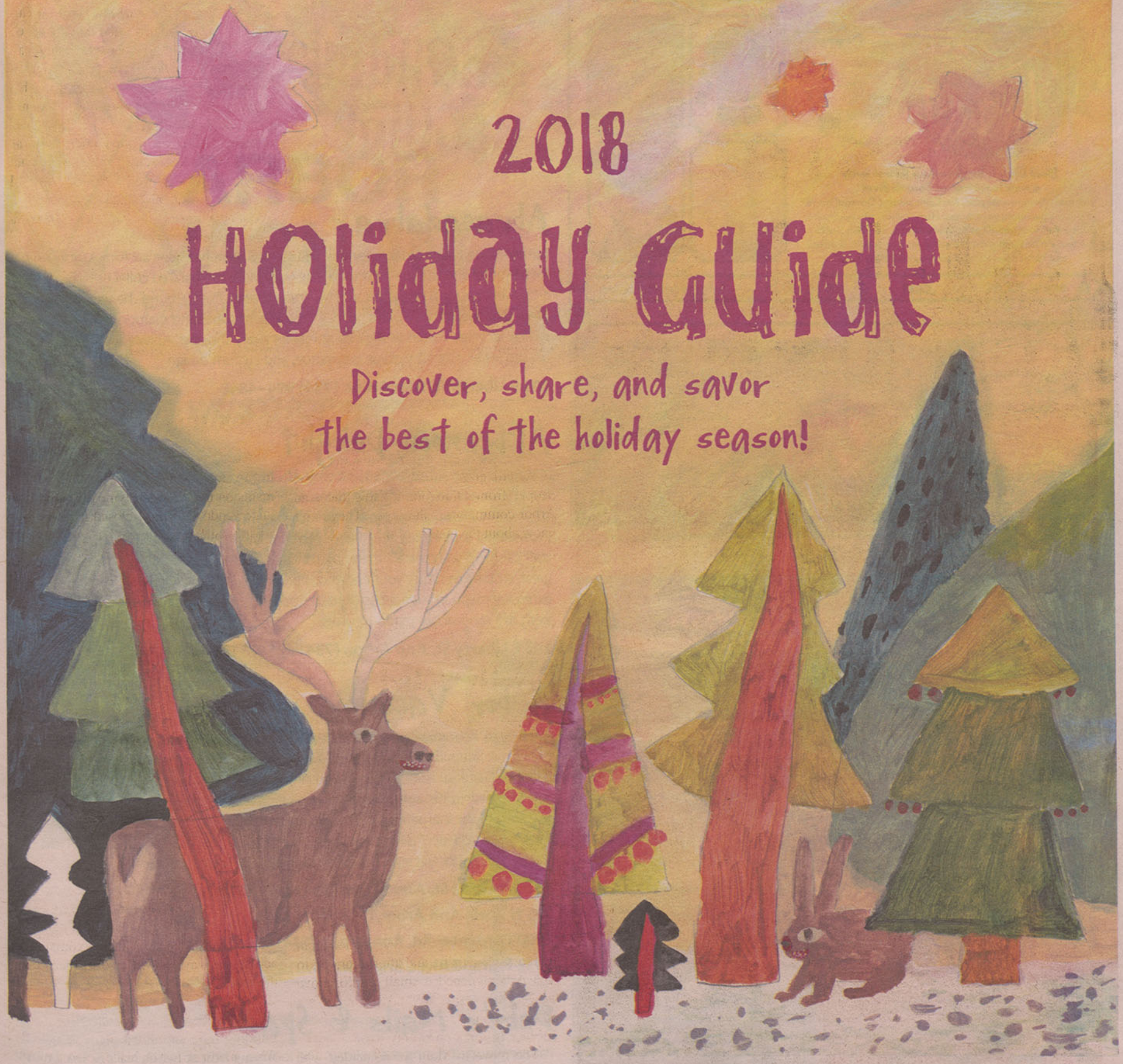
Soon you can grab something else there. The new owners of the Blue Apple building have submitted plans to the city for a medical marijuana dispensary. Another gas-station-to-dispensary transformation is already underway at the former **BP** gas station next to the Victory Inn on Washtenaw. And across Packard from the Blue Apple, a dispensary has set up shop in the former Packard Pharmacy.

Though an Ypsilanti dispensary was recently raided by the DEA, what the state now calls "provisioning centers" have been popping up all over the area. In the last year, Ann Arbor's planning commission has approved twenty-four, and four more are under review. If all are approved, that will hit the twenty-eight-store cap set by city council. ■

Got a retail or restaurant change? Email sabine@aaobserver.com or leave voicemail at (734) 769–3175 x 330.

2018 Holiday Guide

Discover, share, and savor
the best of the holiday season!



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presents

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50th Annual Holiday Dance Performance

December 8&9

Saturday 2PM & 7PM
Sunday 2PM

Skyline High School Theater

Patron Donations:
$25 Premium Seating
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For tickets and information visit
randazzodancecompany.com

Ypsilanti Area Dancers
50
2018
Randazzo Dance Company

Artistic Director
Sara Randazzo

Associate Artistic Director
Roya Panahi

with special guest artists
Maria Lakshmi Alvarez Portillo
and Michael Ryan
from Boston Ballet
Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen

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Unique Gifts & Travel!

Real Irish is back in Ann Arbor with a new location on Fourth Ave!

This specialty store is the place for: Celtic jewelry, Donegal tweed caps, wool sweaters, wool throws, Home goods, gifts and more! Give the gift of travel! Led by Stuart Marley, Real Irish Travel specializes in personalized, small group tours to Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. Now taking reservations for 2019 travel.

www.REALIRISH.com 734.846.2025 info@realirish.com

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ACRYLIC FULL SET
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Ann Arbor 734.975.8870
bebesnails.com

FREE WI-FI flok

Deck the Halls!

Kiwanis Thrift Sale

Get your holiday shopping done this year at the Kiwanis Thrift Sale! Every purchase made helps families in need in our community. Check out our two great sales below:

1st Annual 2-Day Toy Sale
December 7th & 8th
9am – 1pm

Holiday Gifts & Decorations Sale
Every Friday and Saturday
from November 2nd – January 12th 9am – 1pm

Items shown are representative of typical, not actual, inventory.

Help Us Help Kids
#KidsNeedKiwanis | Like Us On

Kiwanis Thrift Sale
Friday & Saturday 9am-1pm
100 N. Staebler Rd. off W. Jackson Rd.
(One mile west of Zeeb Rd.)
a2kiwanis.org
Official Sponsor of Warm the Children

Holiday Guide

Abracadabra

Family-owned Abracadabra Jewelry and Gem Gallery has been an Ann Arbor source for beautiful and unique pieces since 1974. Explore the curated collections from local artists and national designers, and fair-trade jewelry from around the world and find a piece that speaks to you this holiday. Ethical gemstones and diamonds are offered, as well as recycled metals at all price points for every shopper. Abracadabra offers on-site jewelry repair, vintage restoration, and custom design.

205 E Liberty St, Ann Arbor, (734) 994–4848

Afternoon Delight

A staple in Ann Arbor since 1978, cozy Afternoon Delight offers delicious food, friendly service, and reasonable prices. Afternoon Delight wants to cater your holiday this season, allowing you more time with your guest and less time in the kitchen! Professional catering services are available for any size party, and their knowledgeable staff can help you create a menu perfect for your event. For healthy food that tastes great, stop by to satisfy your enormous pan-grilled pancake craving, or check out the extensive menu including customized three-egg omelets, an endless salad bar, and fresh deli sandwiches made-to-order.

251 E Liberty St, Ann Arbor, (734) 665–7513

Arbor Vacuum

Since 1974, Arbor Vacuum has been a trusted source of quality small appliances for the home. Shop vacuums, Wüsthof cutlery, eBikes, and KitchenAid countertop appliances. Get your house ready for hosting with Hoover, Eureka, Royal, Dyson, Riccar, and Miele vacuums. Arbor Vacuum also offers vacuum repair and servicing, and cutlery and scissor sharpening. With a variety of holiday gift ideas, from stainless 8-piece steak knives, classic 7-piece block sets, 2-piece classic carving sets, and hand-held sharpeners, Arbor Vacuum is a great place to shop local this year.

1226 Packard St, Ann Arbor, (734) 761–3677
295 N Zeeb, Ann Arbor, (734) 761–3653
2990 Carpenter Rd, Ann Arbor, (734) 973–2990
9812 E Grand River, Brighton, (810) 227–6617

Bebe's Nails & Spa

Pamper yourself during the holidays and look your best at Bebe's Nails & Spa. Enjoy a well-deserved break, where the focus is on providing special attention and treatment of the hands and feet, as well as waxing and massage. Gift certificates are available at the salon or over the phone–they will even mail them to your home the same day! Now hosting special group events for Mother's Day or weddings. Call ahead to reserve space.

2410 E Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor, (734) 975–8870

ARBOR VACUUM

Family Owned & Operated since 1974

Holiday Gift Ideas

WÜSTHOF

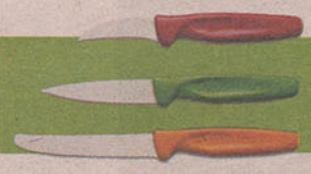
Stainless 8-Pc. Steak Knife Set
In store $49.95 | #9468

CLASSIC 7-Pc. Block Set
In store $269.00 | #7417

CLASSIC 6" Chef Knife
In store $59.95 | #4582-16

2-Pc. Classic Carving Knife Hollow Edge
In store $99.95 | #9729

WÜSTHOF for under $15



3-Pc. Zest Paring Set
In store $11.95 | #9335

Come Apart Scissor
In store $14.95 | #5558
limit one per customer

Hand-Held Sharpener
In store $14.95 | #2922-7

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Lite Weight Upright

NOW IN STORE PRICE $239.95

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TWO Year Warranty Parts & Labor

Buy any Vacuum Bag thru Dec 31 get the 2nd pack for 50% OFF.

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2990 Carpenter Rd.
Ann Arbor
(734) 973-2990

295 N. Zeeb
Ann Arbor
(734) 761-3653

9812 East Grand River
Brighton
(810) 227-6617

Knife Sharpening

Reg: $4.00
With coupon: $3.00*

*no serrated
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www.ArborVacuum.com

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Holiday Novelties
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Customized Chocolate Boxes
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Specialty Holiday Candy
Handmade Caramel Apples
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107 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor
769-7759

AfternoonDelightCafe.com
artwork by danhackett.com

found: an unexpected collection

Visit Found in Kerrytown
for merry decor and gifts galore!

found: 415 N. Fifth Ave. Ann Arbor, MI
foundgallery.com | 734.302.3060

Holiday Guide

Boychoir of Ann Arbor

The Boychoir of Ann Arbor celebrates its 32nd annual presentation of A Boychoir Christmas. This special holiday concert offers an opportunity to hear the unique and glorious sound of this outstanding local choir of all boys. Under the leadership of Music Director Dr. John Boonenberg, the choir performs a variety of Christmas hymns and carols. In keeping with tradition, the audience will once again be invited to join in singing "Hark! the herald angels sing" and "O Come, all ye faithful," featuring soaring descants sure to get you in the holiday spirit. Two performances: Friday, December 7, 7 p.m., Concordia University Chapel, and Saturday, December 8, 3 p.m., First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor. This performance is a wonderful holiday music tradition for the whole family.

BoychoirA2+tickets@gmail.com, (734) 663–5377

Performances:
Friday, December 7, 7 p.m.
Concordia University Chapel
4090 Geddes Rd

December 8, 3 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor
1432 Washtenaw Ave

Calder Dairy & Farm

Calder Dairy & Farm is ready for your holiday dinner, and it's never been easier to get dinner on the table! Calder Dairy was established in 1946 with the vision to deliver farm-fresh premium dairy products to local homes. Delivered straight to your door are fresh vat pasteurized milks and creams, farm-fresh butter, sour cream, chip dips, eggs, and premium ice cream. Calder's world-famous eggnog has traveled with customers all over the U.S. and is a family favorite for many! Shop local for sweet stocking stuffers: Awrey's baked goods, Mighty Good Coffee, jams and preserves, Ghost Pepper Habanero or Lavender infused honey, or Calder's Farm Fresh Fudge. Currently delivering to Monroe, Wayne, Washtenaw, and southwestern Oakland counties. To become a home delivery customer or to learn more, call the Dairy Store at (313) 381–8858 between 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Calder Farm: 9334 Finzel Rd, Carleton, (734) 654–2622
Calder Dairy & Store: 1020 Southfield Rd, Lincoln Park, (313) 381–8858
Calder Store: 28190 Telegraph Rd, Flat Rock, (734) 984–6985

First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor

First United Methodist Church campuses are buzzing with activity this season! Join one or more of the following events: At Green Wood on Saturday, December 8 at 5 p.m., a service of Light in Darkness, where we remember we are not alone in our struggles during this demanding season. Downtown on Saturday, December 8 at 7 p.m., Christmas Celebration concert with solos and audience carol-sing. Sunday, December 16 downtown at 4 p.m., youths offer their hilarious original Christmas drama Apartment 60D. Christmas Eve downtown, everyone is invited to the following services: 5 p.m. for young children and their families. 7:30 p.m. family service featuring children and adult ensembles; 11 p.m. candlelight service with music provided by the Chancel Choir & Instrumental ensemble. Christmas Eve at Green Wood, the 5 p.m. candlelight family service is open to all.

Downtown: 120 S State St, Ann Arbor, (734) 662–4536
Green Wood: 1001 Green Rd, Ann Arbor, (734) 665–8558

celebrate the season at

KERRYTOWN

MARKET & SHOPS

OVER 20 LOCALLY-OWNED BUSINESSES ALL UNDER ONE ROOF

KERRYTOWN KINDLEFEST & MIDNIGHT MADNESS

KERRYTOWN SHOPS OFFERING GREAT DEALS 'TIL MIDNIGHT.
KINDLEFEST OPEN 4-10PM OUTSIDE WITH A SPECIAL KID ZONE FROM 4-6PM

Friday, November 30 • Free and open to the public.

The 10th annual Kindlefest takes place in the Farmers Market and features artisans and farmers selling their goods and wares for the holiday season. Music, fire pits, s'mores, a heated tent, beer, spiced mulled wine and food for purchase! This year we're starting Early Bird Shopping with Kindlefest vendors at 4pm and a Kid Zone from 4-6pm with free crafts and the arrival of Santa.

Holiday Hours

KERRYTOWN SHOPS OPEN UNTIL 7PM WEEKDAYS IN DECEMBER!

Santa

Saturdays & Sundays!

SATURDAYS: DEC. 1, 8, 15 & 22 • 10AM-2PM
SUNDAYS: DEC. 2, 9 & 16 • 1-3PM

Visit Santa and enjoy festive music throughout the day inside the shops. Bring a can of food for the Food Gatherers Can Drive when you visit Santa.

Ring the Bells

Saturdays
10:30–11am
Wednesdays & Fridays
Noon–12:30pm

Mother Goose Storytime

Sunday, December 2, 2pm
"Old King Cole and Mother Goose"
1st floor inside Hollander's

Merry Tubachristmas

SUNDAY, DEC. 2, 2PM • FARMERS MARKET

This annual event is performed all over the US where tuba and euphonium players of all ages gather to perform traditional Christmas carols. Audience participation encouraged!

Good throughout Kerrytown Market and Shops making them a very versatile holiday gift!

Available online at kerrytown.com/gift-cards/

Events in the Market & Shops

EVERYDAY WINES

REGIONAL CHEESE PAIRING CLASS
Wednesday, December 5 • 6-7:30pm
Pick up some great ideas for holiday gifts and parties. Space is limited. Register at everyday-wines.com/tastings-classes/

BOOK SIGNING AND TASTING WITH LINDSAY-JEAN HARD, AUTHOR OF *COOKING WITH SCRAPS*
Saturday, December 8 • 4-5:30pm:

DECEMBER FANCY FRIDAYS, 5PM
12/7: Natural Wines 12/14: Piedmont
12/21: Rhone Valley 12/28: Bubblies

FREE SATURDAY TASTINGS (EXCEPT 12/22): 4PM

MARKET DEAL @ MISS KIM

Do you like to shop at the Ann Arbor Farmers Market? Do you like lunch? Well, you can get 10% off for every bag of market goodies! Two bags get you 20% off, three bags get you 30% off (up to 50% off food!) Available every market day!

WHY KNOT FIBERS TRUNK SHOW & SPUN 3RD BIRTHDAY PARTY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1
TRUNK SHOW 11-6PM
HAPPY HOUR 4-6PM

Join Why Knot's Kat and Claire in the shop to help us celebrate our 3rd birthday! They'll bring all kinds of goodies and we'll celebrate all day, culminating in a reception from 4 to 6pm.

more info on all our events at

407 N. FIFTH AVE. | WWW.KERRYTOWN.COM | 734.662.5008

1ST FLOOR MARKET: M–F 8AM–7PM | SAT 7AM–6PM | SUN 9AM–6PM • **2ND FLOOR MERCHANTS:** M–F 10AM–6PM | SAT 9AM–6PM | SUN 11AM–5PM

HOLIDAY HOURS FOR THE SHOPS BEGIN ON FRIDAY, NOV. 23: M –F 10AM – 7PM | SAT 9AM – 6PM | SUN 11AM – 6PM

12th Annual Holiday Studio Sale

December 8th & 9th, 12-5pm

Hosted by Kate Tremel & Friends

Ceramics, Book Arts, Wearables & Jewelry

good food & holiday cheer

627 Gott St.
Ann Arbor, Water Hill

katetremel.com
734.709.4899

The Boychoir of Ann Arbor

A Boychoir Christmas

7 PM Friday December 7
Concordia University Chapel
4090 Geddes Road

3 PM Saturday December 8
First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor
1432 Washtenaw Avenue

Tickets are available for advance purchase at **aaboychoir.org/reserve.html** or **eventbrite.com.** Tickets also available from members of the Boychoir and at the door.
$20 Adults, $15 Students & Seniors, Free for children
BoychoirA2+tickets@gmail.com (734) 663-5377

First United Methodist Church
of Ann Arbor

Downtown:
120 S. State St. at Huron
Regular Sunday worship at 9:30 & 11:15 am

Green Wood:
1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way
Regular Saturday worship at 5 pm

www.fumc-a2.org
734.662.4536

Are you looking for hope?

If you don't like what you see happening out there, you will find hope here. At First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor, we welcome everyone! Young or old, Democrat or Republican, gay or straight, genderqueer or cisgender, filled with doubts or firm in your faith — you are invited to join us. Our congregation is grounded in the gospel of Jesus Christ, which tears down walls and builds up community. We are progressive, relevant, and committed to seeking peace and building hope through worship, service, social justice, and education.

Join us and commit yourself to living a life that nurtures hope within you and embodies hope in the world.

Come by for

Christmas Eve

at Huron Hills Church

All are welcome, and we'd love to meet you.
Our Christmas Eve service is December 24th at 6:30pm, and is inclusive for all ages. Join us in seeking an honest, compassionate, and hopeful faith.

3150 Glazier Way, Ann Arbor
www.huronhills.org

Holiday Guide

Found

During this festive time of year, Found is a wonderland of seasonal décor and inspired gifts. Creative holiday displays mix handmade pottery, art, and gifts by local artists with simple, modern wooden and ceramic trees. Nordic design ornaments, snowflakes, decorated vintage bicycles, peppermint candles, wreaths, vases, bowls, jewelry, and gifts for everyone on your list can be found at Found!

Located in Kerrytown Market & Shops
415 N 5th Ave, Ann Arbor, (734) 302–3060

Huron Hills Church

Join in the many programs and offerings this season at Huron Hills Church! Sunday Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. or 11 a.m. every week, and everyone is welcome. Kids age infant–12th grade are invited to Sunday Kids Care and programming on the newly renovated garden level at 9:30 a.m., or 11 a.m. for infant–5th grade. Adult Spiritual Formation classes every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Moms of all ages are invited to HHMoms every Friday from 9:30 a.m.–11:15 a.m. Join moms from all stages for a light breakfast, speaker, and table discussion while your kids receive great care and a lesson on the renovated garden level. Check out HuronHills.org for all upcoming events!

3150 Glazier Way, Ann Arbor, (734) 769–6299

K.WEST Skin Body Soul

Visit Ann Arbor's newest luxury spa K.WEST Skin Body Soul, located in an updated historic home on Main Street. Keep yourself healthy and radiant this winter with high vibrational treatments for rejuvenation of the skin, body, and soul. Shop boutique offerings to support healthy, elevated lifestyle routines. Gift certificates and customized gift boxes are available. Look forward to an educational workshop space and yoga coming summer 2019.

4415 N Main St, Ann Arbor, (734) 436–8991, Kwestskinbodysoul.com

Kate Tremel Clay

This year marks the 12th year that book maker Jean Buescher Bartlett and potters Kate Tremel and John Leyland have been gathering together for a collective show and sale of their work on the second weekend in December. The event is a holiday favorite for many art lovers in Ann Arbor where folks gather to leisurely visit and chat with the artists while enjoying treats from local favorites like Roos Roast and Tracklements Smokery. This year they will be joined by potters Ben Teague and Irina Bondarenko, fiber artist Michele Montour, and jeweler Nancy Melet.

12-5pm, Saturday and Sunday December 8–9, 627 Gott St, Ann Arbor

Kerrytown Market & Shops

Located in Kerrytown's Historic Market District, and steps away from downtown, Kerrytown Market & Shops offer the best in one-of-a-kind shops and eateries. Find a gift for everyone on your list, while being transported to the charm of an earlier time in the locally owned shops full of handcrafted goods, paper, specialty foods, fashion, vintage, yarn and toys. Step into the market where seafood, smoked fish, delicious sausages and wines from around the world are waiting to be wrapped up and taken home. All are invited to the annual Kerrytown Kindlefest, a free and outdoor holiday market featuring local and regional artisans and farmers selling hand-crafted ornaments, toys, and unique holiday gifts, as well as German foods, sweets, and beverages. There will be a new Kids Zone this year with crafts and a special visit from Santa.

407 N 5th Ave, Ann Arbor, (734) 662–5008

Kilwins

If you want a gift they'll never return, look no further than Kilwins in Ann Arbor. Located in the heart of downtown, just steps away from Main Street, Kilwins offers custom boxes of exceptional handmade chocolates just under the twin orange awnings. Mackinac Island Fudge, yummy corns and brittles, and hand-paddled fudge are also available daily. Shop baskets and tins this season that are a perfect gift for anyone on your list, and see why Kilwins has been a celebrated part of Ann Arbor for over 30 years.

107 E Liberty St, Ann Arbor, (734) 769–7759

King's Keyboard

Celebrate your favorite sounds of the season with a King's Keyboard piano. Pianos make the holiday brighter, livelier, and more fun! Family owned and operated since 1961, King's offers new and pre-owned uprights, grands, and digitals. King's Keyboard believes that music education is a vital part of life at any age, and offers piano lessons by certified piano instructors for adults and children. Two free lessons offered with purchase of any piano. Give the gift of music this year with a large assortment of piano sheet music and books, as well as music accessories and gifts.

2363 E Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor, (734) 663–3381

Kiwanis Thrift Sale

Donate and shop this holiday season at The Kiwanis Thrift Sale of Ann Arbor! The Holiday Gifts and Decorations Sale takes place every Friday and Saturday from November 2nd to January 12th. Check out bargains on Christmas trees, seasonal gifts and decorations, and household goods and furniture. Also stop by for the first annual 2-day Toy Sale on December 7th and 8th. Hours are Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Kiwanis helps kids in our community. Your contribution makes it possible. Thank you for your ongoing support!

100 N Staebler Rd, Ann Arbor, (734) 665–0450

Motawi Tileworks

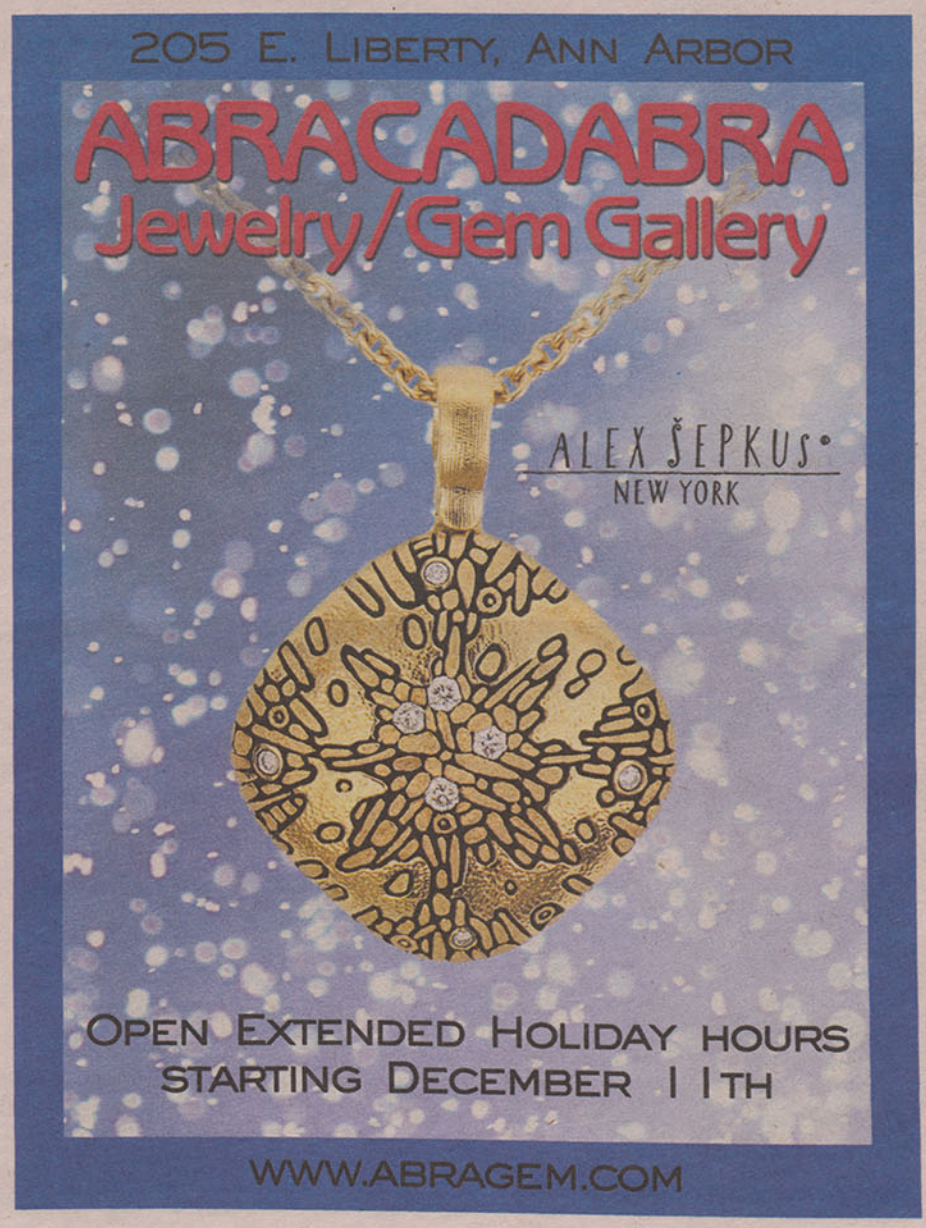
The team at Motawi Tileworks is passionate about making great tile while spreading positivity! As the holiday season ramps up, Motawi wants to make it easier to visit their gallery. Starting Sunday, November 11 through Sunday, December 23, the gallery will be open Sundays 12 p.m.–5 p.m. in addition to its regular hours of Monday–Saturday, 10 a.m.– 5 p.m. Be the life of the party with a gift of handmade art. Shop craftsman clocks, oak frames, house number frames that hold original tiles, jewelry, and gift cards.

170 Enterprise Dr, Ann Arbor, (734) 213–0017

Randazzo Dance Company

Visions of sugar plums and flurries of snow will once again come to life on stage as The Randazzo Dance Company (formerly Ypsilanti Area Dancers) celebrates its 50th Annual holiday showcase, presenting three performances of Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker at the Skyline High School auditorium (2552 N. Maple Rd., Ann Arbor). Guest dancers from the highly acclaimed Boston Ballet, the University of Michigan, and other professional companies will be joining the stage with over 100 local young ballet students. There will be a discounted rate for groups of 10 or more, as well as a special alumni celebration after the Saturday show. Contact RDCTicketsales@gmail.com for more information about these special events. Regular seats can be reserved directly at randazzodancecompany.com. Show times: Saturday, December 8, 2 and 7 p.m; Sunday, December 9, 2 p.m. The Patron donations are: $25 for Premium Seats, $15 for Mid-Level Seats, $10 for Gallery Seats.

4569 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, (734) 477–9350



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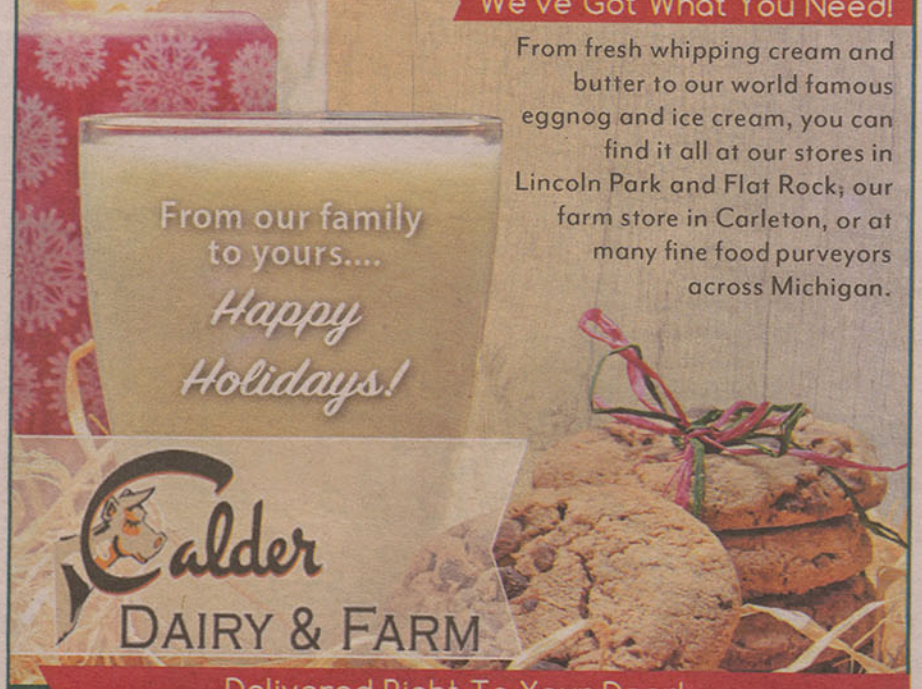
CREAMY EGGNOG. HOLIDAY SWEETS.
THE PERFECT HOLIDAY TREAT.

We've Got What You Need!

From fresh whipping cream and butter to our world famous eggnog and ice cream, you can find it all at our stores in Lincoln Park and Flat Rock; our farm store in Carleton, or at many fine food purveyors across Michigan.



Calder
DAIRY & FARM

Delivered Right To Your Door!

Call us at 313-381-8858, and you'll have our farm fresh dairy products delivered to you!

Visit our Stores!
Lincoln Park: 1020 Southfield Road · 313-381-8858
Open daily 8am to 9pm
Flat Rock: 28190 Telegraph Road · 734-984-6985
Open daily 10am to 8pm

Visit our Farm year round
9334 Finzel Road, Carleton, MI
734-654-2622 · Open daily 10am to 8pm

Holiday Guide

Real Irish

Real Irish is back in Ann Arbor with a new location! Real Irish gifts from real Irish people, this specialty store is the place for authentic jewelry, caps, home goods, and more! Choose from a large selection of Donegal tweed caps, wool capes, Guinness sportswear, wool sweaters, and Celtic wedding bands. New arrivals are delivered daily to the Ann Arbor and Brighton stores. Give the gift of travel! Real Irish will be traveling to Ireland, Scotland, and Wales in 2019. Don't miss out on your chance to experience a Real Irish small group tour.

Tour info: (734) 846–2025 and info@realirish.com
213 S 4th Ave, Ann Arbor

Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor

The Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor provides a robust Waldorf education for students, PreK–12. All are welcome Saturday, December 8, 9 a.m.–3 p.m., to explore the Crystal Cave, meet the Snow Queen, and enjoy a festive song. With live music, puppet theater, children's activities, artisan market, toy store, and tasty treats, this event is one for the entire family! Wind a wool jump rope, make a beeswax candle, or take a cakewalk. Little ones will be enchanted by the magic of the children-only gift shop!

2775 Newport Rd, Ann Arbor, steinerschool.org

Westminster Presbyterian Church

There is a place for everyone at Westminster Presbyterian Church, an authentic faith community that offers fellowship and encouragement on life's journey. Looking ahead to Advent, Westminster has several events available for all age groups. All-Church Advent Dinner on Wednesday, December 5, followed by a performance of The December Torch. Women's Christmas Tea on Saturday, December 15, 2–4 p.m. Sign up for Deacons' Christmas Baskets, a program to provide gifts for four local families this holiday.

1500 Scio Church Rd, Ann Arbor, (734) 761–9320

Vosenna

Vosenna is for everyone, for those who care about skin care to those who like more natural-looking makeup, to those who love full-face glam! Housing multiple indie brands under one roof, all brands sold at Vosenna are made in the USA and not tested on animals. In fact, owner Elizabeth Devos sought out indie companies that made ethical, quality products, many of them handmade. Shop gift boxes, stocking stuffers, cosmetics, skin care, hair care, and fragrances this holiday season!

2386 E Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor, (734) 929–4356

Zion Lutheran Church

Zion Lutheran Church accepts everyone because everyone belongs! Come celebrate the season at the "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" Women's Christmas Luncheon, Saturday, December 1, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.; the Detroit handbells Saturday, December 8 at 4 p.m. During "Letters at Christmas" children are invited to ask their favorite Christmas characters questions about the first Christmas on Sunday, December 16, at 11:11 a.m. Advent services Wednesday, November 28 and December 5 and 12 at 7 p.m. Blue Christmas services on December 19 at 7 p.m. provides solace to share grief, sadness, or loneliness, when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays. Christmas Eve services 3, 7, and 9 p.m. Christmas Day service 10 a.m.

1501 W Liberty St, Ann Arbor, (734) 994–4455

38th Annual

Winter Festival

Live Music
Puppet Theater

Children's Activities
Artisan Market

Toy Store
Tasty Treats

Explore the Crystal Cave, meet the Snow Queen & enjoy a festive song. Wind a wool jumprope, make a beeswax candle, or take a cakewalk. Little ones will be enchanted by the magic of our children-only gift shop!

RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL
OF ANN ARBOR

Please Join Us
Saturday, December 8, 9 am-3 pm
2775 Newport Road, Ann Arbor
www.steinerschool.org

Early Childhood Experience on Friday, December 14
An opportunity for families with young children to explore the wonders of a Waldorf kindergarten. Details and registration, jhuber@steinerschool.org. Registration required. Space is limited.

K.WEST
SKIN BODY SOUL

Ann Arbor's Newest Luxury Spa

Nurturing those exploring natural beauty, calm presence & authentic self expression.

Gift Certificates available!

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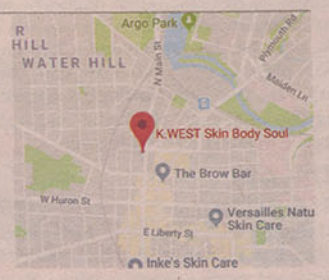

MOTAWI TILEWORKS
2018
Holiday Hours

Mon-Sat
10am-5pm

Sun
12pm-5pm

Nov. 11th - Dec. 23rd

MOTAWI TILEWORKS
734.213.0017 | motawi.com
170 Enterprise Dr, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Music at Nightspots

by Katie Whitney

Listings are based on information available at press time. ***Up-to-date schedules are posted at AnnArborObserver.com,*** *but it may be advisable to call ahead. Times are noted only if they differ from the default showtimes listed in the description of each club.*

Ann Arbor Distilling Co.

220 Felch **882–2169**

This boutique distillery features occasional live music in its Tiny Corner stage in the tasting room (or on the patio in summer if the weather is nice), 7–9 p.m. (except Sun. 5:30–7:30 p.m.). **Every Sun.: Brennan Andes & Friends.** *See review, right.* Jazz ensemble led by Macpodz bassist Andes. **Dec. 1: Sam Corbin.** Lansing pop-folk singer-songwriter whose influences include Leonard Cohen and Bob Dylan. **Dec. 7: An Dro.** Celtic-based worldbeat by this Grand Rapids–area acoustic ensemble. **Dec. 8: Rochelle Clark.** Chelsea singer-songwriter who's half of the Americana duo The Potter's Field. **Dec. 14: Escaping Pavement.** Ferndale acoustic singer-songwriter duo of multi-instrumental string players Emily Burns and Aaron Markovitz who describe their songs as "Americana wildflowers amongst blades of bluegrass." **Dec. 15: Matt Gabriel.** Grand Rapids singer-songwriter whose music draws on an eclectic mix of genres, from pop and rock to folk and country. **Dec. 21: Anthony Retka.** Detroit indie pop-rock singer-songwriter. Opener: TBA. **Dec. 22: Jud Branam & Kevin Brown.** Local alt-country duo, both singer-songwriters from Corndaddy, whose music mixes equal parts of Gram Parsons and Uncle Tupelo. **Dec. 28: Jay Frydenlund.** Chirp singer-guitarist who plays rock 'n' roll, blues, and folk covers and originals. **Dec. 29: Harrington Brown.** Local guitar duo of Michael Harrington and Appleseed Collective frontman Andrew Brown.

The Ark

316 S. Main **761–1451**

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional and roots music and contemporary songwriting. Shows almost every night at 8 p.m. Mon.–Sat., & 7:30 p.m. Sun., unless otherwise noted. Tickets are sold in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office (relocated to the Michigan League during the Union's renovation) and theark.org, and at the door. **Dec. 1: Hot Tuna Acoustic.** Guitarist Jorma Kaukonen and bassist Jack Casady, two original members of Jefferson Airplane, formed Hot Tuna in 1970 as a progressive blues-rock outfit, and the band had several hit records. Kaukonen and Casady have been touring mostly as a duo since the 80s. $45–$74.99. **Dec. 2: Griffin House.** Ohio-bred Americana-inflected pop-rock singer-songwriter known for his intelligent, heartfelt lyrics and engaging melodies. $20. **Dec. 3: "Bill Kirchen Honky Tonk Holiday Show."** Ann Arbor native (and former Commander Cody guitarist) Kirchen plays a versatile mix of hard-core honky-tonk, rockabilly, acoustic swing, and countrypolitan balladry. The *Austin American-Statesman* praised his "no-nonsense diesel guitar attack, powered by great booming, bottom-heavy licks still covered with axle grease." His Ark shows usually feature various guest musicians. $20. **Dec. 6–8: Ebird & Friends Holiday Show.** Erin Zindle, the fiery fiddling frontwoman of the classy local progressive country-rock band the Ragbirds who has also released a solo CD, *Scenes from the Fragile, Agile Avian World,* is joined by several established and up-and-coming luminaries of the Michigan music scene for her very popular annual program of new and old holiday music. This year's cast includes **Joshua Davis, Joe Hertler, Luke Winslow-King, Madelyn Grant, Jen Sygit, Adam Plomaritas, Ross Huff, Brandon Smith, Tim Haldeman, Yorg Kerasiotis, Brad Phillips, Brennan Andes, Jess McCumons, Loren Kranz, Asim Khan, Jennifer Jones, Shelly Smith,** and more. $25–$50 (kids 10 & under, $15 for Sat. matinee only). 8 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 3 p.m. (Sat.). **Dec. 9: Jon McLaughlin.** Popular funk-inflected pop-rock singer-songwriter from Anderson, Indiana. Tonight's holiday show features music from his 2 Christmas CDs, including the recent *Red & Green.* Opener: **Vilray,** a Brooklyn-bred composer-guitarist who whistles and sings his original swing tunes. $21–$51. **Dec. 10: The Weepies.** Acoustic folk-rock by the Cambridge (MA) husband-and-wife singer-songwriter duo of Deb Talan and Steve Tannen. Opener: **Matt the Electrician,** the stage name of veteran Austin-based pop-folk singer-songwriter Matt Sever. $30. **Dec. 12: Open Stage.** All acoustic performers invited. Fifteen acts are selected randomly from those who sign up to perform 8 minutes (or 2 songs) each. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. $3 (members & students, $2). **Dec. 13: Tish Hinojosa.** Highly regarded Mexican-American country-folk singer-songwriter, now living in Germany, whose repertoire—in English, Spanish, or both—ranges from country love songs both plaintive and playful to gritty tales about life in Texas border towns to one-of-a-kind pieces like a wonderful song about the Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. According to a *Los Angeles Times* reviewer, Hinojosa "doesn't just mix American country and Mexican musical styles but makes the real connection between them clear." $15. **Dec. 14: Over the Rhine.** Energetic heartland rock 'n' roll, at once artful and urgent, by this acclaimed Cincinnati quartet. Led by the husband-and-wife songwriter duo of vocalist Karin Bergquist and bassist Linford Detweiler, the band is known for its enchantingly spare arrangements and its reflective, self-consciously literary lyrics. $30. **Dec. 15: Blackthorn.** This veteran Royal Oak quartet plays a wide range of Celtic music, from contemporary Irish songs and traditional songs of emigration to sea shanties, lively jigs and reels, and haunting ancient airs. $20. **Dec. 17: Vienna Teng.** *Sold out.* **Dec. 18: Delbert McClinton.** Legendary Texas honky-tonk singer-songwriter whose music effortlessly melds country, blues, rock 'n' roll, and R&B traditions. A superb blues harpist, McClinton got his start as a teenager in the 50s backing blues masters like Howlin' Wolf and Jimmy Reed in San Antonio bars. Though his own records have typically enjoyed only a cult following, the likes of Emmylou Harris and Vince Gill have turned songs of his into hits, and he has recorded hit duets with Bonnie Raitt, Tanya Tucker, and others. McClinton's gotten even better with age: his recent recordings evince a relaxed mastery without losing the gritty swagger and drive that's always distinguished his music, and his 2009 CD *Acquired Taste* topped the *Billboard* blues chart. He has a new CD, *Prick of the Litter,* as well. $50. **Dec. 19: Open Stage.** See above. **Dec. 20: Joe Hall & the Cane Cutters.** Young Louisiana zydeco quintet led by singer-accordionist Hall. Opener: **Natalie Mae,** a Manchester-bred New Orleans–based folk-roots singer-songwriter and fiddler-keyboardist $20. **Dec. 21: The RFD Boys.** Authentic bluegrass by these longtime local favorites who have appeared at numerous festivals and on the cover of *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine. Their shows blend top-notch musicianship with funny between-songs dialogue. $11 (members, students, & seniors, $10). **Dec. 27: Seth Glier.** 29-year-old singer-songwriter from western Massachusetts with a powerful falsetto and captivating melodic sense who was featured in the 2009 *Prairie Home Companion* "People in Their 20s" contest. His 2015 CD, *If I Could Change One Thing,* has provoked comparisons to vintage Billy Joel. "Seth Glier abstains from pretense and offers instead an album filled with unbridled pop perfection," says *Pop Matters* reviewer Lee Zimmerman. "Percolating rhythms and cheery sentiments dominate the proceedings, ensuring radio readiness every step of the way." $20. **Dec. 28 & 29: "Crossroads Ceili."** Two evenings of Celtic music, song, and dance featuring **Mick Gavin & Family,** a veteran Detroit Irish music ensemble led by fiddler (and County Clare native) Gavin, along with an assortment of guest performers TBA. $20 ($30 by reservation only includes dinner entrée at Conor O'Neill's before the show). 7:30 p.m. **Dec. 30: Brother Joscephus & the Love Revolution.** Brooklyn-based 12-piece band that plays a New Orleans–inspired mix of soul, classic rock, and feel-good gospel. $20.

Aut Bar

315 Braun Ct. **994–3677**

This local tavern features live music Tues. 7–10 p.m. & Wed. 6:30–9 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Tues.: Jesse Kramer Trio.** Jazz trio led by drummer Kramer. With saxophonist Bobby Streng and bassist Damon Warmack. **Every Wed.: Marsha Gayle & Debbie Fogel.** Duo of veteran Detroit jazz & blues vocalists.

Bel-Mark Lanes

3530 Jackson **864–6095**

The café inside this westside bowling alley features occasional live music. Karaoke, Fri. & Sat. 9 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover, dancing. **Dec. 30: II-V-I Orchestra.** Veteran local big band, led by saxophonist David Swain, that plays late 1930s swing and 1940s R&B. 6–8 p.m.

The Blind Pig

208 S. First St. **996–8555**

This local club features live music most Wed.–Sat. and occasional other nights, 10 p.m.–1:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). Also, occasional early shows, usually 7–10 p.m. Cover, dancing. Advance tickets sold at the 8 Ball Saloon (below the club) and at blindpigmusic.com/calendar. **Dec. 1: Bars of Gold.** Ferndale postpunk pop-rock quintet. Openers: **Minihorse,** a local rock band, and **Dogleg,** a local posthardcore emo band. $10. **Dec. 4: Protomartyr and Preoccupations.** Double of Detroit postpunk garage bands. Opener: **Rattle,** a Nottingham (UK) experimental drum duo. $15 ($18 at the door). **Dec. 6: Andrea Doria.** Riverview jazz-inflected pop-rock quartet. Openers: the local indie rock band **Seaholm,** the Allen Park alt-rock trio **Labour Day Weekend,** and the local postpunk indie rock quartet **Stopwatch.** $7–$10. **Dec. 7: Good Old War.** Philadephia trio that plays catchy, musically refined folk-rock with flawless vocal harmonies that, according to allmusic.com, "manages to sound like the Flaming Lips fronted by Paul Simon." Openers: **Beta Radio,** a Wilmington (NC) Americana duo, and **Allman Brown,** a London (UK) singer-songwriter who cites Bon Iver, James Vincent McMorrow, and Sufjan Stevens as influences. $16 ($18 at the door). 8 p.m.–midnight. **Dec. 12: Sara Marie Barron.** Detroit-area neo-soul singer-songwriter, a trained opera singer whose influences include Carole King, Etta James, and Billie Holiday. Openers, **Cousin Mouth,** a Detroit experimental rock band, and **Britney Stoney,** a Detroit soul singer-songwriter. $10. **Dec. 13: Desmond Jones.** Grand Rapids funk-rock jazz fusion quintet. Opener: **Pajamas,** a local pop-rock jam trio. $8–$11. **Dec. 14: "Nightmare Before X-Mas."** Costume party (with prizes) headlined by **Black Note Graffiti,** a local progressive metal and alt-rock quintet. Openers: the Grand Rapids instrumental rock band **Knives Are Quiet,** the local hard-rock quintet **Stick Shift,** and the local hard-rock trio **Dark Serenity.** $7 ($10 at the door). 9 p.m.–1:30 a.m. **Dec. 15: Antiserum.** Bay Area producer who specializes in bass-oriented hip-hop. Openers: the Ypsilanti hip-hop ensemble **Approachable Minorities,** the Detroit electronic dance music duo **2 Beard Crew,** and the Detroit electronic dance music duo **LEGND.** $20. **Dec. 19: "Major Dudes Play Steely Dan."** Detroit 6-piece Steely Dan tribute band. $10 ($12 at the door). 9 p.m.–1:30 a.m. **Dec. 20: Trembling Earth.** Manchester-based blues-inflected folk-rock jam band Openers: **Jive Colossus,** a local 9-piece Afro-Caribbean funk-rock dance band, and **Nina & the Buffalo Riders,** a Detroit rock 'n' roll sextet $10 ($12 at the door). **Dec. 22: Counter Cosby.** Reunion of this veteran local band that plays sarcastic, goofy, prog-rock metal. Openers: the Detroit rock 'n' roll quintet **The Lucid Furs,** the Detroit self-styled "dirty crunchy rock" trio **The Loveseats,** and the Ypsilanti rock 'n' roll quartet **ZZvava.** $8–$11. **Dec. 29: Laith Al-Saadi.** *All ages admitted to early show.* This popular local singer-guitarist rocketed to national prominence in 2016 with a 4th-place finish on NBC's The Voice. His latest CD, *Real,* a collection of songs drawing on blues, country, gospel, and roots rock, was recorded in L.A. with an all-star cast of session legends, including saxophonist Tom Scott, drummer Jim Keltner, and bassist Leland Sklar. $25. 8–9:30 p.m. & 11 p.m.–1:30 a.m. **Dec. 31: Stormy Chromer.** Local progressive jam-rock quartet. Openers: **Chirp,** a local jazz-inflected progressive funk-rock quartet, and **Biomassive,** a Traverse City electronic jam band that plays originals and covers of the Grateful Dead. $15. 9 p.m.–2 a.m.

Bona Sera

200 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti **340–6335**

This Ypsilanti restaurant features occasional live music in its underground lounge, 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, cover. **Dec. 1: "PoptART."** Drag show. 11 p.m.–1:30 a.m. **Dec. 15: Scritch Detroit.** Dance party with DJs

jazz

Brennan Andes

Friendly and fun

It's a little after five on a fall Sunday afternoon. On the patio outside the Ann Arbor Distilling Company, multi-instrumentalist Brennan Andes is tuning his stand-up bass, while drummer Jon Taylor sets up his kit. A young couple near the makeshift stage area are sipping drinks and speaking Italian. Andes overhears, says, "scusi," and walks over with his four-string banjo. Mixing Italian and English he offers to later play "Pizzica," an Italian folk dance tune, and strums a few bars.

The exchange signals both the content and tone of the evening to come: unexpected, unplanned music, and a friendly, casual atmosphere.

Andes, who's long played in several bands, perhaps most prominently with the Macpodz, has been fronting Andes and Friends, a constantly changing collective of musicians, Sunday nights at the A2DC since October 2017. "You never know who'll come down," he says. "Last week we had Dick Siegel and Madcat [Ruth]. The only criteria is you have to be a friend."

This evening Andes and Taylor start with up tempo bebop tunes. The instrumentation is spare and atypical, but it works well; both musicians are adept on their instruments and comfortable in the idiom. The small crowd applauds each solo and tune. Andes switches to banjo for a few original pieces, including his Latin-inflected "Water Hill Liberation March."

Brant Losinski stops by with his guitar and joins in. The music changes to traditional Irish tunes and Losinski's aptly titled "Sweet Whiskey Dream." For the next set, guitarist Dylan Charles—like Andes, a Community High School graduate and an alum of Vincent York's jazz program—sits in, literally on his guitar case. The trio impressively plays Wes Montgomery's "4 on 6," then the promised "Pizzica," which starts slowly, accelerating with each repeat.

For the third set, A & F regular, trumpeter and Macpodz member Ross Huff arrives, and bassist Josef Deas, another CHS and Vincent York grad, stops by on his way to his regular Sunday gig at the Ravens Club. The quartet plays an extended blues, with everyone soloing in turn. The crowd has swelled, as has the applause.

Two Sundays later, the weather has turned cold, and A & F are inside the A2DC, tucked into the corner next to the bar. The roster and instrumentation is somewhat different, but the variety and easy informality is identical. Andes, sans bass, has his banjo and acoustic guitar and is sitting before a Chinese harp-like instrument, the ancient *guzheng.* Huff and Wire in the Wood violinist and A& F regular Jordan Adema complete this week's lineup, and the trio expertly glides through an eclectic repertoire, from country to swing to meditative originals featuring the guzheng. Bartender Mark Gleason occasionally provides inadvertent but accurate percussion using a bar shaker like maracas and even sings the slow blues number "Red House," all the while continuing to wash dishes, mix drinks, and ring up sales.

The tip jar sits on the end of the bar; it has replaced the previous week's open banjo case, and the patrons drop money, occasionally eliciting cheers from the musicians. The evening concludes with the beloved "Besame Mucho," played as smoothly and deliciously as the White Russian Gleason made for me earlier.

Brennan Andes & Friends plays at Ann Arbor Distilling Co. every Sunday in December.

—Sandor Slomovits

and live music TBA. **Dec. 28–30: "Mittenfest XIII."** Three-night showcase of local and Michigan bands in a wide spectrum of genres. 6 different bands each night. A benefit for the nonprofit youth tutoring and writing center 826michigan. $10 per night. 8 p.m.–1:30 a.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.). *Dec. 28:* **Nathanael Paul Romero** (8 p.m.), **Pancho Villa's Skull** (8:45 p.m.), **Matt Jones & the Reconstruction** (9:30 p.m.), **River Spirit** (10:15 p.m.), **Dani Darling** (11 p.m.), **Jaye Prime** (11:45 p.m.), and **Approachable Minorities** (12:30 a.m.). *Dec. 29:* **Lonely Hearts Convention** (8 p.m.), **Drinkard Sisters** (8:45 p.m.), **Jim Cherewick** (9:30 p.m.), **Impulse** (10:15 p.m.), **Louis Picasso & the Darling** (11 p.m.), **Minihorse** (11:45 p.m.), and **Jamie Register & the Cash Machine** (12:30 a.md.). *Dec. 30:* **Towner** (8 p.m.), **Virga** (8:45 p.m.), **The Ryne Experience** (9:30 p.m.), **Mother Night** (10:15 p.m.), **Little Traps** (11 p.m.), **Junglefowl** (11:45 p.m.), and **Zzava** (12:30 a.m.). **Dec. 31: "PoptART."** See above.

The B-Side
310 E. Washington **214–9995**

This all-ages venue in the Neutral Zone teen center (with a side alley entrance off Fifth Ave.) features a mix of touring, local, and teen bands, usually Sat. 7–11 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 1: "Battle of the Bands."** Local teen bands in all genres compete in 2 rounds for gigs at Top of the Park, on WCBN-FM, and more. Participants: the indie rock band **Left Lanes,** the deathcore band **Colorless Exile,** the indie pop band **SunnyHeadache,** the alternative rock band **Alt Facts,** the neo-soul ensemble **Prophecy,** and the funk band **Impulse.** 7–11 p.m.

Café Verde
214 N. Fourth Ave. **994–9174**

This café in the People's Food Co-op features acoustic musicians and duos, 1st Fri. each month, 6–8 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 7: Aim High Flyers.** Aim High School (Farmington Hills) students perform pop songs, led by their teacher and local guitarist Matthew Landrum.

The Club Above
215 N. Main **686–4012**

This dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features live music most Fri. & Sat., and occasional other nights, 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m. (doors at 9 p.m.). Also, DJs occasional Wed. & Thurs. 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, cover. Age 21 & older admitted. **Every Tues.: Open Mike.** Hosted by Reigna Rein. Sign-up begins at 9 p.m. No cover. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. **Dec. 8: "R&B Showcase."** Live music and DJs TBA. **Dec. 14: Great Neptune.** Local ambient art-rock trio. Openers: **Bad Television,** a Saline post-emo math rock quartet, and **Parkway & Columbia,** a Brighton quintet that plays atmospheric, melodic indie rock. 8 p.m.–midnight. **Dec. 15: "R&B Showcase."** Live music TBA. 9 p.m.–1 a.m. **Dec 21: "DJ Showcase."** With house, bass, and electronic dance music. **Dec. 29: "Indie Rock Showcase."** With bands TBA. 8:30 p.m.–1 a.m. **Dec. 31: Hullabaloo.** Veteran local 9-piece collective whose upbeat, energetic music draws on ska, jazz, funk, punk, and Latin influences. Opener: Jive Colossus (see Blind Pig). 8 p.m.–3 a.m.

Conor O'Neill's
318 S. Main **665–2968**

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. 7:30–10 p.m. and Fri. & Sat. 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. **Every Fri.: Matt Styles.** DJ with an eclectic mix of music. **Dec. 1: Chirp.** See Blind Pig. **Dec. 8:** TBA. **Dec. 15: Randy Brock Group.** Detroit blues trio. **Dec. 22: Mogue Doyle.** Original Irish rock by this local quartet, along with covers of the Pogues and others. **Dec. 29:** TBA.

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room
114 S. Main **665–9468**

Tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music, Fri. & Sat. 8–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 1: San, Emily, & Jacob.** Multi-instrumentalist San Slomovits (best known as half of the popular family-friendly duo Gemini) and his violinist daughter, Emily Slomovits, are joined by bassist Jacob Warren to perform a wide range of traditional and contemporary acoustic folk, jazz, and classical music, including material from their CD, *Innocent When You Dream.* **Dec. 7: The Blue Water Ramblers.** This Grand Rapids quintet fronted by banjoist Jim Foerch and guitarist Bear Berends performs a wide range of traditional Great Lakes music, including lake shanties, lumberman ballads, union rallying cries, farmer's paeans, gospel music, and children's ditties. **Dec. 8: Bill Edwards.** Veteran local country singer-songwriter whose songs have been covered by the likes of Lee Roy Parnell and T. Graham Brown. His collaboration with former Ann Arborite Whit Hill, "What'd I Do," was featured in the HBO series *True Blood.* **Dec. 14: Dale Osborn.** Leo Kottke–style singer-guitarist from Chelsea who performs tasty covers and originals. **Dec. 15: John Churchville.** Local tabla player, accompanied by several musician friends, who plays Indian classical, light classical, fusion, and folk music. **Dec. 21: Billy Brandt & Sarana VerLin.** This 2010 Detroit Music Award–winning folk-rock singer-songwriter duo performs a blend of Celtic and Americana music they call "Celticana." **Dec. 22: John Finan & Sharon Tse.** Singer-songwriter duo. Finan is a Canton singer-songwriter who writes country-tinged folk-pop, and Tse is a young singer-songwriter whose repertoire ranges from confessional folk-pop to jazz-inflected songs. **Dec. 28: Terry Birkett.** Longtime Livonia Americana guitarist and songwriter. **Dec. 29: Steve Kovich.** Detroit singer-songwriter whose influences include James Taylor and Paul Simon.

Detroit Street Filling Station
300 Detroit **224–2161**

Restaurant near Kerrytown with live music, Wed. & Thurs. 6–9 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Wed.: Detroit Street Hot Club.** Vintage jazz in the style of Django Reinhardt's 1930s Parisian swing by the local quartet of guitarists Andrew Brown and Michael Harrington, bassist Ryan Shea, and violinist Tyler Rindo. **Every Thurs.: "Bluegrass & Beer Thursday."** The local **Pontiac Trailblazers,** a bluegrass quartet led by bassist Ryan Shea, performs a set and then hosts a jam session during a 2nd set. Bring your instrument. **Dec. 31: "New Orleans Jazz NYE Party."** With the Detroit Street Hot Club (see above). 6:15–9:15 p.m.

The Earle
121 W. Washington **994–0211**

Restaurant with live jazz Tues.–Thurs. 7–9 p.m. and Fri. & Sat. 8–11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Tues.–Thurs.: Jake Reichbart.** Solo jazz guitarist. Solo jazz pianists TBA occasionally substitute. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio.** Jazz ensemble, named after the late jazz pianist and Earle cofounder Burgess, featuring drummer Robert Warren and a rotating roster of bassists and pianists.

Guy Hollerin's
3600 Plymouth Rd. **769–9800**

The restaurant in the North Campus Holiday Inn features music on Sat. (except holiday weekends), 8 p.m.–midnight. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 1: Jimmy McCarty & Mystery Train.** Popular rockabilly and roots-rock band led by veteran Detroit guitarist McCarty. **Dec. 8: The Bluesmatics.** Local blues and blues-rock quintet. **Dec. 15: Downriver Dan.** Fiery blues-rock by this trio led by Allen Park singer-songwriter and guitarist Dan Kalicki. **Dec. 22: Thornetta Davis.** Soulful, rocking Detroit-style R&B by a band led by Davis, a powerful, Etta James–style vocalist. **Dec. 29:** No music. **Dec. 31: "New Year's Eve Blues Bash."** With **Lady Sunshine & the X Band,** a popular local gospel-flavored blues band led by Lady Sunshine, a fiery, rich-voiced singer whose style blends elements of Aretha Franklin, Koko Taylor, and Denise LaSalle. The band's latest CD is *Big Sexee.* $40 (includes champagne toast and light hors d'oeuvres buffet at midnight) in advance and (if available) at the door. 9 p.m.–1 a.m. (doors open at 8 p.m.).

The Habitat Lounge
3050 Jackson Rd. **665–3636**

The lounge at Weber's Inn features dance bands Tues.–Thurs. 9 p.m.–12:30 a.m. and Fri. & Sat. 9:15 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Also, a DJ Mon. 9 p.m.–midnight, and solo pianists Tues.–Sun. 8:30–10 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Sun.: EventJazz.** Jazz originals and standards by different piano-based trios and quartets each show, led by bassist Rob Crozier. **Every Tues.: Dave Menzo.** This local pop-rock singer-songwriter uses guitar, bass, synths, and other electronics to improvise instrumental tracks on the spot to sing with. His recent CD, *Shhh,* is a collection of cinematic soundscapes created entirely with acoustic, electric, and electronic instruments from the Ann Arbor District Library Music Tools collection. **Dec. 1: Atomic Radio.** Detroit quartet that plays 70s–90s rock and pop favorites. **Dec. 3: Andrew Brown.** Local singer-songwriter & guitarist, the Appleseed Collective frontman. **Dec. 5: Cetan Clawson.** Monroe psychedelic blues-rock trio. **Dec. 6: Wych Elm.** Local string sextet that plays a stylishly pungent, soul-infused mix of folk, rock, jazz, and old-time music. **Dec. 7 & 8: Fusion.** Top 40 dance band. **Dec. 10: Cat Canyon.** Veteran Detroit roots-rock singer-songwriter. **Dec. 13 & 14: Slice.** Veteran East Lansing pop dance quartet. **Dec. 14: Soulstice.** Hard-driving horn-fueled funk dance band from East Lansing. **Dec. 15: Killer Flamingos.** Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular veteran band from Dearborn. **Dec. 17: Andrew Brown.** See above. **Dec. 19: Cetan Clawson.** See above. **Dec. 20: Wych Elm.** See above. **Dec. 21 & 22: FreeLance.** Local dance rock cover band whose repertoire ranges from Earth, Wind & Fire and Stevie Wonder to AC/DC and Guns & Roses to Maroon 5 and Bruno Mars. **Dec. 26 & 27: Slice.** See above. **Dec. 28 & 29: Soulstice.** See above. **Dec. 31: The Front Men.** Detroit vintage rock band. Also, in the Weber's Inn ballroom, the **Nightline,** a veteran Top 40 dance band.

The Last Word
301 W. Huron **585–5691**

This downtown cocktail bar features live music Thurs. 9:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Thurs.: The Pherotones.** A wide range of jazz and jazzed-up popular music, from the 1920s to the present, by this all-star local quartet. With trumpeter Ross Huff, pianist Giancarlo Aversa, bassist Brennan Andes, and drummer Wes Fritzemeier.

LIVE
102 S. First St. **623–1443**

This lounge features live music Fri. happy hour (late Aug.–early June), 6:30–9 p.m., and occasional evenings. Also, DJs, Mon. & Thurs.–Sat. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover (except Fri. & Sat. after 11 p.m.), dancing. 6:30–9 p.m. **Dec. 7: FUBAR.** 6-piece band led by guitarist Randy Tessier and featuring vocalist Sophia Hanifi. Its repertoire is an eclectic mix of originals by Hanifi and Tessier and covers of everyone from the Yardbirds, the Byrds, and Dylan to the Foundations' 1968 hit "Build Me Up Buttercup" and priceless obscurities like Love's "Alone Again Or." 6:30–9 p.m. **Dec. 14: George Bedard & the Kingpins.** Superfine honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll classics, with some memorable originals penned by guitar genius Bedard. With drummer Rich Dishman and bassist Pat Prouty. Bedard's 2015 live CD, *Further On,* is a collection of vintage and original blues that's highlighted by a show-stopping rendition of "Hawaiian Boogie." **Dec. 21: Corndaddy.** Local alt-country band led by singer-songwriters Kevin Brown and Jud Branam, whose music filters early 70s country-rock through the influences of bluegrass, power pop, and British Invasion bombast. **Dec. 28: The Terraplanes.** Local band led by singer-guitarist Jerry Mack that plays a mix of houserocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock.

Mash
211 E. Washington **222–4095**

This lounge in the basement of the Blue Tractor tavern features live music Wed. 9 p.m.–midnight and Thurs.–Sat. & occasional other nights, 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Weekend happy hour music, 6–9 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Dec. 1: Mike Vial.** Local folk-rock singer-songwriter. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 1: Detroit's Own Soul Purpose.** An eclectic mix of genres from funk and blues-rock to hard country by this Westland quintet fronted by vocalist Carol Holmes. **Dec. 5: David Roof.** Local blues-rock singer-guitarist. **Dec. 6: Laura Rain & the Caesars.** An intense fusion of funk, soul, and blues by this Detroit quintet fronted by vocalist Rain. **Dec. 7: Matt Gabriel.** Grand Rapids singer-songwriter whose music draws on an eclectic mix of genres, from pop and rock to folk and country. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 7: Rock Jones.** Detroit roots rock, Motown, and blues quartet. **Dec. 8: Jason Dean.** Local postmodern pop singer-songwriter. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 8: Chris Canas Band.** Detroit blues band fronted by blues vocalist and virtuoso guitarist Canas. **Dec. 12: Reeds 'n' Steel.** Acoustic jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by the duo of singer and harmonica player Michael May and guitarist David Roof. **Dec. 13: Dave Menzo.** See Habitat. **Dec. 14: Mia Green.** Young Detroit-area pop-folk singer-songwriter. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 14: Weekend Comeback.** Pop-rock, Motown, and country party band. **Dec. 15: Mike Vial.** See above. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 15: The Scott Martin Band.** Canton alt-country-rock quartet led by singer-songwriter Martin. **Dec. 19: Adam Labeaux.** An eclectic mix of jazz, folk, soul, funk, and rock originals by this local singer-songwriter. **Dec. 20: Dave Menzo.** See Habitat. **Dec. 21: Robert Johnson.** Solo acoustic folk and blues by this Northville singer-guitarist. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 21: The Invasion.** British Invasion cover quartet from Redford led by singer-guitarist David Roof. **Dec. 22: Matt Boylan.** Covers and originals by this local pop-folk singer-guitarist. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 22: The Urban Legend Trio.** Soul-based music by this Toledo ensemble whose music also draws on elements of blues, funk, R&B, and jazz. **Dec. 26: Reeds 'n' Steel.** See above. **Dec. 27: Twenty TwentyFour.** Toledo band that plays a mix of jazz, funk, R&B, and rock dance music. **Dec. 28: Dan Orcutt.** Veteran local folk-rock singer-songwriter. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 28: Nobody's Business.** Redford blues and blues-rock band. **Dec. 29: The George and Laura Duo.** Funky soul and R&B by the duo of vocalist Laura Rain and her husband, guitarist George Friend. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 29: Chris Canas Band.** See above. **Dec. 31: Michael May & the Messarounds.** Jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by this veteran local quartet led by vocalist and blues harpist May. 8 p.m.–2 a.m.

Old Town
122 W. Liberty **662–9291**

This downtown corner bar features live music Sun., Wed., & occasional other nights, 8–10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends **Dec. 2: Darrin James Band.** Blues-inflected folk-rock led by this local singer-songwriter who has released 3 CDs. **Dec. 5: Estar Cohen Trio.** Local modern jazz ensemble led by vocalist Cohen. With Fender Rhodes electric pianist Galen Bundy and drummer Travis Aukerman. **Dec. 9: Paul's Big Radio.** Rootsy country-pop band led by local singer-songwriter Paul Lippens. **Dec. 12: Kenji Lee Trio.** Jazz trio led by saxophonist Lee whose repertoire includes Lee originals along with music by Chick Corea, Thelonious Monk, Duke Ellington, Cedar Walton, and others. **Dec. 16: Mike Latini.** Patterson (NY) singer-songwriter. **Dec. 19: Dave Sharp Worlds Quartet.** World music-based jazz by this ensemble led by local bassist Sharp. With oud player

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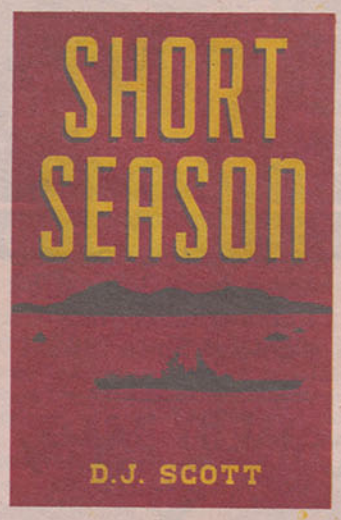

FROM ANN ARBOR
TO THE PERSIAN GULF...

TODAY'S FICTION OR
TOMORROW'S HEADLINE?

Missing Russian nukes, a dangerous warlord, and a Michigan Marine regiment stretched to the limits of courage and endurance. Their survival hinges upon the conflict between duty and loyalty. *Short Season* is a novel of gritty authenticity in one of the most dangerous places on earth. ■ This gripping novel by retired naval officer DJ Scott is available from Amazon or with free shipping from seattlebookcompany.com.

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Handel's *Messiah*
FREE EVENT FOR
TICKETHOLDERS ONLY

PRE-SHOW TALK:
"Fortunate the Eyes
that See and the Ears
that Hear"

Saturday, December 1, 6 pm,
Hill Auditorium
on the Mezzanine

Scott Hanoian, Music Director of the UMS Choral Union, and **Choral Union soloists** give an insider's look and live demonstration of Handel's treatment of Charles Jennens' libretto, and Dr. Lynne Alcott Kogel, Emerita Board Member of Michigan Center for Early Christian Studies also presents "Jennens' Libretto in Light and Color: Handel's Messiah in 1,000 Years of Stained Glass"

This event is co-sponsored by the Michigan Center for Early Christian Studies and the University of Michigan Department of Middle East Studies.

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Music at Nightspots

Igor Houwat, violinist Henrik Karapetyan, and percussionist Mark List. **Dec. 23: Midwest Territory Band.** Local acoustic trio led by blues-oriented vocalist and guitar virtuoso Rollie Tussing. With bassist Serge van der Voo and percussionist Jim Carey. **Dec. 26: Ben Rolston Quartet.** Local jazz ensemble led by bassist Rolston. **Dec. 30: Whiskey Charmers.** Classy Detroit neo-honky-tonk duo featuring singer-guitarists Carrie Shepard and Lawrence Daversa, who bill their music as "electric heartbreak on the rocks." The band has a new CD, *The Valley.*

Oz's Music Environment
1920 Packard **662–8283**

This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music 1st & 4th Tues. and every Thurs. 7:30–9:30 p.m. Cover by donation, no dancing. **Every Thurs.: "Guitarist Network."** All guitarists invited for a weekly jam session and group lesson that concludes with a group performance. 7:30–9 p.m. **Dec. 4: "Songwriters Open Mike."** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. **Dec. 11: "Anything Goes Open Stage."** All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by Jim Novak.

The Ravens Club
207 S. Main **214–0400**

This downtown bar & grill features live music Sun. 8–11 p.m., Mon. 9 p.m.–midnight, & Tues. 6–8 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.: "Sol Jazz Sundays."** A house band—trumpeter Ingrid Racine, keyboardist Michael Malis, bassist Josef Deas, & drummer Jesse Kramer—is joined by a different guest each week. This month: TBA (Dec. 2), vocalist **Heather Black** (Dec. 9), clarinetist-saxophonist **Janelle Reichman** (Dec. 16), TBA (Dec. 23), and vocalist **Heather Black** (Dec. 30). **Every Mon.: Bickley/Kramer/Roe.** Mainstream jazz by the local trio of bassist Rob Bickley, drummer Jesse Kramer, and keyboardist Rick Roe. **Every Tues.: Chris Buhalis.** See Ark.

Rumpus Room
510 N. Main, Chelsea
therumpusroomchelsea.com

Music room inside Jet's Pizza features trivia Wed. 7 p.m. and occasional live music 8 p.m.–midnight. Cover, dancing. **Every Fri.: Open Mike.** All musicians invited. Hosted by Jacob Gibson. Sign-up begins at 6 p.m. 8 p.m.–midnight. **Dec. 1: Brotha James.** 80s-style pop-rock with an inspirational edge by Elk Rapids one-man band Jeremy Reisig. Opener: **Jacob Gibson,** a Howell singer-songwriter. 8:30 p.m.–midnight. Remainder of winter schedule TBA. **Dec. 15: Deadicated.** Detroit psychedelic jam band that specializes in the music of the Grateful Dead and its circle.

Silvio's Organic Pizza
715 North University **214–6666**

This campus-area restaurant features live music Sun. 6–8 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 7–9 p.m., and occasional other nights. No cover, dancing. **Dec. 7: Kinfolk Rigg.** An eclectic mix of country, pop, & jazz originals and covers by the local duo of singer Missy Riggs and guitarist Paul Rhodes. **Dec. 8: Agenda 21.** Detroit activist reggae-rock trio, fronted by singer-songwriters Sherry Lutz and Leslie Glapa Panzica, featuring songs about radioactive leaks, Monsanto, the war racket, government lies, and more. **Dec. 14:** TBA. **Dec. 15: Mary Ann Kirt.** Pop-folk and indie rock originals by this local singer-guitarist. **Dec. 21: Isosceles.** Versatile local acoustic trio that plays a mix of jazz, swing, country, pop, and folk. With vocalist Shekinah Errington, bassist Tim Berla, and guitarist Jim Cooney. **Dec. 22, 28, & 29:** TBA.

Tap Room
201 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti **482–5320**

This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern features live music Thurs. and occasional Fri. & Sat. 8 p.m.–midnight. No cover, dancing. **Every Thurs.: Electric Open Mike.** Hosted by **The Martindales,** a local band led by singer-guitarist Brian Brickley that plays blues and rock covers and originals. All electric musicians invited. **Dec. 7: "First Friday."** With the Ypsilanti neo-soul blues fusion quintet **The DayNites** (9 p.m.), the raucous Ypsilanti surf-guitar psychobilly band **Las Drogas** (10 p.m.), and the local folk-rock-flavored acoustic funk band **Mercury Salad Sandwich** (11 p.m.).

Ypsi Alehouse
124 Pearl, #100, Ypsilanti **487–1555**

This brewpub features live music Tues. & Thurs.–Sat. eve., times TBA, and Sun 2–4 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 1:** TBA. 5–7 & 8–10 p.m. **Dec. 2: The Parsnips.** Ypsilanti pop-rock quartet. **Dec. 4:** TBA. **Dec. 5: Devyn Mitchell.** Plymouth pop-folk singer-songwriter. 7–9 p.m. **Dec. 6: Kevin & the Glen Levens.** Local quartet whose eclectic repertoire ranges from traditional Irish music to rockabilly, bluegrass, novelty songs, and roots-rock originals. 7–9 p.m. **Dec. 7: Pearl Street String Band.** Versatile acoustic quartet whose repertoire includes traditional jigs, reels, waltzes and airs from Irish, French-Canadian, New England and Southern/old-time sources, and more. 5–7 p.m. **Dec. 7: Band of Rasmus.** Ypsilanti keyboard-driven classic rock and blues quartet. 8–10 p.m. **Dec. 8: Mary Ann Kirt.** See Silvio's 5–7 p.m. **Dec. 8: K Michael Joseph.** Local singer-songwriter whose music is an acoustic blend of electropop, NUJazz, and ambient music. Also, an eclectic mix of covers. 8–10 p.m. **Dec. 9: "Celtic Jam."** Traditional Irish tunes on traditional instruments. **Dec. 11: Phil McMillion.** Veteran local folk-rock singer-songwriter. 7–9 p.m. **Dec. 13: Katie Pederson.** Local singer-songwriter and pianist whose influences include Sara Bareilles, Ben Folds, John Mayer and Jon McLaughlin. Her repertoire also includes pop covers from the past 50 years. 8–10 p.m. **Dec. 14:** TBA. 8–10 p.m. **Dec. 15: James Henes.** Local alternative rock band led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Henes. 5–7 p.m. **Dec. 15: The Newport Blues Band.** Local blues band. **Dec. 16: The Parsnips.** See above. **Dec. 18: Malty Taskers Jug Band.** Old-time music from blues and country to hokum. 7–9 p.m. **Dec. 19: Barker & Broski.** Local proto-punk rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter duo of Michael Snyder-Barker and Chris Broski. 7–9 p.m. **Dec. 20: Mark Vashon.** Local rock singer-songwriter. 7–9 p.m. **Dec. 21: The Extrusions.** Local vintage rock and Motown band. Opener: **Six-Foot Poles,** a veteran local classic rock band. 8–11 p.m. **Dec. 22: Unkle Lay Lee's Moonshine All-Stars.** An eclectic mix of music in various genres by this Milan strings & more quintet. 8–10 p.m. **Dec. 23: "Celtic Jam."** See above. **Dec. 26: "Open Mike."** All acoustic musicians invited. 7–9 p.m. **Dec. 28:** TBA. 5–7 & 8–10 p.m. **Dec. 29:** TBA. **Dec. 31:** TBA. 3 p.m.–midnight.

Zal Gaz Grotto
2070 W. Stadium **663–1202**

This Masonic social and service club hosts live music Sat. 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m., Sun. 5–8 p.m. (except as noted), Mon. 7–10 p.m. (mid-Sept.–June), Tues. 5:30–8:30 p.m., & occasional other nights. Cover, dancing. **Every Sun.: Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** This local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 1920s and early 1930s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. **Every Mon.: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 15-piece big band led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist Sarah D'Angelo and occasional guest vocalists. Also, each week features a middle set by a guest student ensemble. **Every Tues.: Paul Klinger's Easy Street Jazz Band.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Klinger. **Dec. 21: "Holiday Hootenanny."** With 2 local ukulele ensembles, the **Brain Plasticity Ukulele Collective** and **Dumpster Ukes.** $10. 7 p.m. **Dec. 31: The Cellar Cats.** An eclectic mix of rock 'n' roll, Motown, blues, soul, R&B, progressive rock, and swing by this ensemble of veteran local musicians fronted by singer-flutist Patty O'Connor. With guitarist and harmonica player Myron Grant, guitarist Kip Godwin, keyboardist Mark Wight, bassist Terry Gordinier, drummer John Marion, and Charles Dayringer on congas, clarinet, and sax. 10 p.m.–1 a.m.

Zou Zou's Café
101 N. Main, Chelsea **433–4226**

Newly renovated and expanded café features live music Wed., Fri., & Sat. 8–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Wed.:** TBA. **Every Thurs.: Open Mike.** All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by **Rochelle Clark** (Dec. 6), **Sam Corbin** (Dec. 13), **Judy Banker & Ed Dupas** (Dec. 20), **Rollie Tussing** (Dec. 27). Sign-up begins at 6 p.m. 7–9 p.m. **Dec. 1: John Latini.** Acoustic rock-based originals by this popular veteran local rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter. His new CD, *The Blues Just Makes Me Feel Good,* is a collection of soul-infused R&B songs. **Dec. 5: The Rollie Tussing Project.** Ensemble led by Tussing, a nationally known local guitar virtuoso who specializes in prewar blues and jazz. **Dec. 7: Sydney Burnham.** Bluesy, funky folk-rock by this young singer-songwriter and guitarist from Brighton. **Dec. 8: M22.** Local acoustic classic rock and country-rock cover band featuring members of the Breakers. **Dec. 12: Pete Bullard & Friends.** Ensemble led by local blues guitarist Bullard, of the Shelter Dogs. **Dec. 14: Katon & Perkins.** Blues and blues-rock by the veteran local duo of singer-guitarist Michael Katon and bassist Todd Perkins. **Dec. 15: Jere Markita Duo and Dan Hazlett.** Double bill. The Jere Markita Duo is singer-songwriters and multi-instrumentalists Jere Stormer and Markita Moore. Hazlett is a Detroit-area singer-songwriter and guitarist who plays blues-, R&B-, folk-, and jazz-influenced originals on topics that range from the outlandish to the sublime. **Dec. 19: The Blue Rays Trio.** Eclectic blues-based trio. **Dec. 21: Shannon Lee.** Versatile Ypsilanti Americana country-folk singer-songwriter best known as a vocalist with Hullabaloo. **Dec. 22: Dave Boutette.** Veteran local folk-rock singer-guitarist whose genial songs about the small ups and downs of ordinary life draw on a range of influences from Chuck Berry to Bob Dylan to Paul Westerberg. He performs with his wife, singer **Kristi Davis,** a former Radio City Rockette. Tonight's holiday show features lots of sing-alongs. **Dec. 26: The Rollie Tussing Project.** See above. **Dec. 28: Lee Kitzman.** Veteran folk and blues singer-guitarist from Alpena. **Dec. 29: Brown & Falk.** Originals and offbeat covers in an eclectic mix of styles from bluegrass and blues to folk and jazz by the veteran duo of singer-guitarists Rick Brown and Jack Falk.

December Events

FILMS

71 Film Screenings
Megan Inbody & Katie Whitney

MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

60 Nightspots
John Hinchey & Katie Whitney

Brennan Andes
arwulf arwulf

GALLERIES

79 Exhibit Openings
Megan Inbody

Wild Swan Theater performs *A Christmas Carol* Dec. 6–9 (see Kids Calendar, p. 87).

KIDS CALENDAR

87 Events for kids 12 and under
Megan Inbody & Katie Whitney

EVENTS REVIEWS

67 Elizabeth Alexander
Walking forward in that light
Keith Taylor

73 Charles Lloyd & Lucinda Williams
Poetic stylings
Piotr Michalowski

77 Joyce DiDonato
Braving Schubert's *Winter Journey*
arwulf arwulf

81 Smell & Tell with Michelle Krell Kydd
Olfactory humanitarian
arwulf arwulf

We want to know about your event!
Please send a press release.

- **By email:** events@aaobserver.com
- **By phone:** 769–3175
- **By mail:** Katie Whitney, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103
- **By fax:** 769–3375
- **After-hours drop box:** left side of the Observer's front door facing Winewood

What gets in?
We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:
All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to AnnArborObserver.com).

★ ***Denotes a free event.***

annarborobserver.com:
An expanded, continually updated version of this calendar is available at **AnnArborObserver.com.** If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on AnnArborObserver.com.

arbormail:
Get a reminder when your favorite performer, group, or special event shows up in town. Sign up at AnnArborObserver.com/arbormail_help.html.

Tickets for events highlighted in yellow are available at a2tix.com.

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

1 SATURDAY

★**32nd Annual Hometown Holiday: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce.** Family activities, including Santa visits and crafts. Gingerbread house displays in shop windows, and luminarias along Main St. in the evening. Merchant sales with entertainment and refreshments at many stores, and a show by Ballet Chelsea on Dec. 1 (see listing). *Sat.:* **Free breakfast with Santa** (8:30–10:30 a.m., Chelsea Comfort Inn & Village Conference Center), **"Material Girls Christmas Bazaar"** for kids age 4 through 6th grade and a parents corner & bake sale (10 a.m.–3 p.m., Chelsea First United Methodist Church; preregistration required at chelseafestivals.com), a quilt display, craft and bake sale, silent auction, and free quilt giveaway at the **St. Barnabas Episcopal Church Annual Quilt Show & Sale** (10 a.m.–3 p.m., St. Barnabas, 20500 W. Old US-12), **All the Trimmings Holiday Art Show** with an array of works by local artisans (10 a.m.–4 p.m., Chelsea Fairgrounds, W. Old-US 12 at Manchester Rd.), **Gingerbread House decorating** for families (11 a.m., noon, and 1 p.m., First Congregational Church; space limited; preregistration required by calling 475–1844), **Holiday Homemade Gift workshop** for teens & tweens (1:30–3 p.m., Chelsea District Library), docent-led **Historic Homes Tour** (1–4 p.m., starts at Chelsea Area Historical Museum, 128 Jackson; $20 at the Garden Mill, Chelsea Pharmacy, the museum, and online at chelseahistory.org), **holiday parade** (6 p.m., along Main St.) featuring dozens of lighted floats and vehicles, marching bands, and Santa, and more. *Sun.:* **Hometown Holiday Concert** (3 & 7 p.m., First Methodist Church) by the Chelsea Chamber Players, the First Methodist Chancel Choir, the Detroit Renaissance High School choirs, and members of the Chelsea High School orchestra. The program includes Dan Forrest's "Jubilate Deo," Carl Reinecke's Serenade in G Minor, and a Christmas carol sing-a-long. An interfaith **Christmas Concert** (6–7 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1330 N. Freer) features Christmas music performed by the congregational and children's choirs. Refreshments. *8:30 a.m.–8 p.m. (Sat.), & noon–7 p.m. (Sun.), downtown Chelsea. Free (except as noted). 475–1145.*

"23rd Annual Dr. Porter Synchronized Skating Classic": Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club. *Nov. 30-Dec. 2.* The world's largest synchronized skating competition, featuring 150 teams from across the U.S. and Canada. *8:30 a.m.–9 p.m. (Sat.), 6–8 p.m. (Fri., Nov. 30), & 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m. (Sun.), Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. 1-day pass: $10 (stu-*

TINY EXPO
INDIE HOLIDAY ART & CRAFT FAIR
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2018 • 11am–5:30pm
no admission charge • over 40 vendors • shop local! • tinyexpo.com
Downtown Library • 343 S. Fifth Ave.

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

ANN ARBOR DISTRICT LIBRARY

AADL.ORG

DEC 3

COOKIE & CANDY MAKING 101 WITH KEEGAN RODGERS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3 • 7-8:30PM

Keegan C. Rodgers, Head Baker at the People's Food Co-Op, leads this hands-on and lively workshop just in time for the holidays! *This event is in partnership with the People's Food Co-Op and is part of an ongoing baking series.*

DEC 5

SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER: THE ROLE OF JOURNALISM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5 • 7-8:30PM

Join the *Michigan Daily* for the first in a series of panel discussions addressing the question: Who holds the power in Ann Arbor? *This event is a partnership with the Michigan Daily.*

DEC 6

BECOMING AMERICAN FILM & DISCUSSION | FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6 • 6:30-8:30PM

In the third part of the *Becoming American* series, the PBS documentary *My American Girls* will be screened, followed by a discussion moderated by Dr. Jesse Hoffnung-Garskof. *For more information about the Becoming American Documentary Film & Discussion Series and other related programming, visit aadl.org/becomingamerican* • **GRADE 6-ADULT**

DEC 8

TINY EXPO: INDIE HOLIDAY ART & CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8 • 11:00AM-5:30PM

Artists and crafters will be selling handmade wares in a festive library space where you can shop local and handmade! It's a great way to support your community and find unique gifts. We'll also have several make-and-takes happening in the Secret Lab, 1pm–4pm! • **ALL AGES**

DEC 9

CLASSICAL BELLS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 • 3:30-4:30PM

Classical Bells returns to the Library for their annual concert, featuring musical selections in a wide variety of genres – classical, jazz, inspirational, even ragtime and swing! This event is very popular, so arrive early! **ALL AGES**

DEC 10

AARON FOLEY: CHIEF STORYTELLER FOR THE CITY OF DETROIT

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10 • 6:30-8:00PM

Aaron Foley, author of the 2015 book *How to Live in Detroit Without Being a Jackass*, discusses his life and career through an insightful perspective that is sure to educate and entertain. *This event is a part of the Ann Arbor District Library's programming with the Becoming American Documentary Film & Discussion series. For more information visit aadl.org/becomingamerican.*

DEC 12

FRENCH MACARONS 101 WITH KEEGAN RODGERS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12 • 7-8:30PM

Keegan C. Rodgers, Head Baker at the People's Food Co-Op, leads this lively workshop on how to make macarons! *This event is in partnership with the People's Food Co-Op and is part of an ongoing baking series.*

DEC 13

BECOMING AMERICAN | STORIES OF US

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13 • 7-8:30PM

Join us for an evening of stories about migration, movement, exile, and belonging. This event will feature the unique voices of Elizabeth James, Ahnas Alzahabi, and Laura Raynor. *For more information about the Becoming American Documentary Film & Discussion Series and other related programming, visit aadl.org/becomingamerican.* **ALL AGES**

DEC 14

CONCERT | COREY STRONG

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14 • 7-8:00PM

Join the powerful singer/songwriter and three-time Detroit Music Award nominee Corey Strong for a festive concert celebrating peace, goodwill, and holiday cheer.

DEC 16

WAPUR ROBOT CHAMPIONSHIPS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16 • NOON-6:00PM

WAPUR (WAshtenaw Pick Up Robotics) will take over the Downtown Library lobby for their 5th annual event. Watch large robots face off in competitive matches all day long, culminating in a championship round at 5pm! **GRADE 6-ADULT**

DEC 17

EXPLORING THE MIND | MOOD LIFTERS: A NEW APPROACH TO MENTAL HEALTH CARE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17 • 7-8:30PM

Join Dr. Patricia Deldin as she describes Mood Lifters, a new, peer-led, instant access, affordable and science-based program designed to improve mental wellness and decrease sadness and anxiety. *This program is part of the Exploring the Mind series and is a partnership with The University of Michigan Department of Psychology.*

A HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE: THE RENAISSANCE TO THE 19TH CENTURY

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17 • 7-8:30PM

Learn about the history of Modern English with storyteller Jim Glenn! • **GRADE 8-ADULT • WESTGATE BRANCH**

DEC 18

CONCERT | CURTIS TAYLOR

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18 • 7-8:00PM

Grammy Award-winning trumpeter Curtis Taylor shares his unique blend of soulfulness, harmonic sensibilities and rhythm.

DEC 19

SMELL & TELL THE STORYTELLING SECRETS OF OPTIMUS YARNSPINNER

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19 • 6:30-8:45PM

Discover a unique approach to writing and smell your way to being a better communicator with the help of Optimus Yarnspinner. *The Smell and Tell series is led by Michelle Krell Kydd.*

DEC 21

KWANZAA: A CELEBRATION OF UNITY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21 • 7-8:30PM

Elizabeth James from the U-M Afroamerican and African Studies Department presents an interactive discussion on the history and current celebration of Kwanzaa. All are welcome to come and enjoy!

EVENTS TAKE PLACE IN THE DOWNTOWN LIBRARY UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.
ALL EVENTS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT NO CHARGE.
NO REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

For information on these events and more, please visit aadl.org

dents & seniors, $8). Weekend pass: $25 (students & seniors, $20). 213–6768.

Annual Holiday Sale: Kiwanis Center. *Every Fri. & Sat.* Sales of seasonal gifts and decorations, sporting goods, kitchen items, collectables, books, jewelry, office supplies, furniture, and more. Also, the **1st Annual Toy Sale** (Dec. 7 & 8). *9 a.m.–1 p.m. Kiwanis Center West, 102 N. Staebler. Free admission. 665–0450.*

Holiday Bazaar: Dexter Heritage Guild. Sale of handcrafted gifts, ornaments, holiday decorations, winter apparel, scrubbies, and more. Also, a sale of baked treats and canned goods, an appearance by **Santa** (11 a.m.–1 p.m.), and a chance to get a **"Holiday Passport"** stamp (passports that are stamped at all 4 of the participating Dexter bazaars today—see Winterberry Holiday Fair, Community Bazaar, and Dexter Senior Center listings below—can be submitted to win a drawing for a gift basket). Raffles of a quilt, an Encore Theatre gift certificate, and a ceramic Christmas tree. Also, the museum gift shop is open. Proceeds benefit the museum. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., Dexter Area Historical Museum, 3443 Inverness, Dexter. Free admission. 426–2519.*

Winterberry Holiday Fair: Dexter United Methodist Church. Sale of crafts and goods by local artists. Also, a Grandma's Attic rummage sale and a bake sale. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., DUMC, 7643 Huron River Dr., Dexter. Free admission. 426–8480.*

Community Bazaar: Dexter Area Girl Scouts. More than 24 artists, crafters, and scout troops show and sell handcrafted goods, including wood crafts, kids games, learning toys, ornaments, teacher gifts, and stocking stuffers. Also, baked goods and the popular "nut hut." Door prizes (bring a bag of nonperishable food to be entered). *9 a.m.–1 p.m., St. Andrew's Church, 7610 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. Free admission. facebook.com/DexterGirlScouts*

Annual Holiday Bazaar: Dexter Senior Center. Show and sale of handmade gifts, including wooden toys, knitted gloves and scarves, jams and jellies, and more. Also, the popular Grandma's Attic sale of second-hand holiday decorations and gifts. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., DSC, 7720 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. Free admission. 426–7737.*

35th Annual Arts & Crafts Festival: Ann Arbor City Club. Juried show and sale of photography, jewelry, woodworking, ceramics, watercolors, dolls, Helen Springer baskets, and much more by 50 exhibitors. Also, sale of holiday greens, including wreaths, poinsettias, and more. Lunch available (11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.). *9 a.m.–4 p.m., AACC, 1830 Washtenaw. $3 admission. 662–3279.*

"Christmas at the Mansion": Dexter Area Historical Society. *Dec. 1 & 2.* Two days of seasonal events at Gordon Hall, the 19th-century mansion built by Dexter founder Judge Samuel Dexter, whose many rooms have all been lavishly decorated for the holidays. On Sat., display of the museum's **Christmas Vintage Collection,** Milt Campbell's huge collection of Department 56 collectible holiday houses, buildings, and figures that was once traditionally seen in the windows of Huron Camera in downtown Dexter throughout the holiday season. On Sat., **Santa** is on hand to talk with kids, who also can make their own gingerbread house to take home. Also, the museum hosts an **open house** ($5 per adult) to view the Christmas Vintage Collection, 6–8 p.m. on Dec. 8, 9, 15, 29, & 30. On Sun: **"If Teapots Could Talk: A Christmas Tea."** Light lunch with tea sandwiches and desserts and tour of Gordon Hall. *9 a.m.–5 p.m. (Sat.) and 1 & 4 p.m. seatings (Sun.), Gordon Hall, 8347 Island Lake Rd., Dexter. $5 on Sat., $30 on Sun. Reservations required for Sun. by calling 395–4106.*

★"Christmas in the Village": Manchester Chamber of Commerce. *Nov. 30 & Dec. 1.* Downtown Manchester bustles with holiday activities, including several craft and artisan shows, caroling, a scavenger hunt, carriage rides, home tours, gingerbread house craft activity, bake sales, and more. Festivities kick off on Nov. 30 at 6:30 p.m. with a **parade** that brings Santa down Main Street to the mill where he lights the Christmas tree and greets children. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., downtown Manchester. Free admission. 476–4565.*

★Remote-Controlled Car Racing: Washtenaw RC Speedway. *Dec. 1 & 15.* One of the largest regular gatherings of RC racers in the country features off-road dirt-track racing for stock and modified model electric trucks and buggies. Spectators welcome. Food concessions. *10 a.m.–midnight (registration 8–9:30 a.m.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Doors open at 8 a.m. Free admission. $17 to race. (517) 290–7128.*

"Winter Birding": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Indoor talk on birding basics followed by a guided walk. Experienced birders welcome to join at 11 a.m. for the walk. Bring binoculars. For ages 10 & up. *10 a.m.–noon, park activity center, 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. $8 ($4 walk only). Preregistration required. $10 vehicle entrance fee. 426–8211.*

Winter Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild. *Dec. 1 & 2.* A popular annual sale held in a heated tent outdoors. Some 40 local artists offer a large selection of functional and decorative ceramics. Also, a kids' area with gifts priced for their budgets. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., Potters Guild Studio, 201 Hill. Free admission. 663–4970.*

6th Annual Holiday Sale: Huron Valley Woodturners. *Dec. 1 & 2.* Ten local woodturners show and sell their bowls, pens, vases, lamps, candlesticks, ornaments, rolling pins, crochet sets, ice cream scoops, and more. Also, demos. Cider & cookies. Partial proceeds benefit the Cancer Support Community and the Virtual Dialysis Support Center. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., Crossroads Community Center, 5501 Webster Church Rd., Dexter. Free admission. eperry@umich.edu*

3rd Annual Christmas Craft & Bake Sale: New Apostolic Church. Sale of gift items, holiday decorations, and baked goods. Gift wrapping available. Music & refreshments. Raffle. Partial proceeds benefit Faith In Action. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., New Apostolic Church, 4844 Jackson Rd., ste. 200. Free admission. 369–6146.*

★**"Advent Happening Arts & Crafts": First Presbyterian Church.** All ages invited to decorate cookies and make gifts, cards, and ornaments. Childcare available for babies age 2 & under (reservations required). *10 a.m.–noon, First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466 ext. 342.*

"Christmas on the Farm": Waterloo Farm Museum. *Dec. 1 & 2.* This German immigrant pioneer homestead comes alive with the sights, sounds, and smells of a rural 1880s Michigan Christmas as costumed guides lead tours of the 2-story brick farmhouse, 1840s log house, outbuildings (with a blacksmith at work at the forge), and the one-room Dewey School (a short drive away on Territorial). Also, sales of baked goods, holiday greens, and gifts. Reading of *The Night Before Christmas* (Sat. only, 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.). Live music TBA. Refreshments. No pets, except service animals. *10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Sat.) & noon–4 p.m. (Sun.), Waterloo Farm Museum, 13493 Waterloo-Munith Rd. (left off Clear Lake Rd. 5 miles north from I-94 exit 153), Waterloo Recreation Area, Chelsea. $5 admission (kids ages 5–12, $2; age 4 & under, free). (517) 596–2254.*

★**Christmas Party: Downtown Home & Garden.** Santa is on hand to talk to kids, give them Christmas oranges, and take Christmas lists. Free eggnog, hot cider, chestnuts roasted on an open fire, cranberry salad and other side dishes, and, while they last, samples of smoked Christmas turkey. Also, a performance by the **Community High School Jazz Band.** *10 a.m.–1 p.m., Downtown Home & Garden, 210 S. Ashley. Free. 662–8122.*

★**Chime Concert: Kerrytown Shops.** *Every Wed., Fri., & Sat.* All invited to play one of 100 songs, with melodies transcribed in numbers, on the 17-bell chime's numbered keys. Ambitious players can add chords. Kids welcome. *10:30–11 a.m. (Sat.) & noon–12:30 p.m. (Wed. & Fri.), Kerrytown Market & Shops. Free. 369–3107.*

"Pet Photos with Santa": Humane Society of Huron Valley. *Dec. 1 & 2.* All invited to bring pets to meet Santa. Bring cats in carriers and dogs on leashes. *11 a.m.–3 p.m., Pet Supplies Plus, 2607 Plymouth Rd. (Sat.) & 2224 S. Main (Sun.). $15 donation (includes a printed and digital photo). 661–3527.*

"Annual Croissant Concert": Kerrytown Concert House. A popular holiday tradition featuring **Today's Brass Quintet,** an ensemble of area professional musicians that performs pop, classical, and holiday tunes. With trumpeters Mitchell Wechsler and Jean Moorehead Libs, tuba player Joseph DeMarsh, trombonist Brian Robson, and French horn player Alan Taplin. Croissants, coffee, & juice. *11 a.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $15–$30 (students, $10) in advance at a2tix.com/events/2018–12–01-croissant-concert. Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

★**"Quilled Earrings": Ann Arbor District Library.** All grade 6–adult invited to learn how to roll, shape, and glue strips of paper into decorative designs to make earrings. Materials provided. *Noon–1 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. 327–4200.*

Open Studio & Art Sale. *Dec. 1 & 2.* Show and sale of drawings, paintings, and prints by local artists **Helen Gotlib** and **Dylan Strzynski.** Also, a chance to look at their works in progress. *Noon–6 p.m., 7281 Toma Rd., Dexter. Free admission. helengotlib@gmail.com*

"A Manor Christmas": Concordia University. *Nov. 30-Dec. 2.* A European-style Christkindlmarket and guided tours of the historic Earhart Manor, which has been professionally decorated for Christmas. Also, a Festival of Trees display, kids activities, and entertainment by the **Arbor Consort** strolling carolers, local singer-songwriter **Kevin Devine,** and local choirs, with appearances by Kris Kringle and Twisty the Elf. Refreshments available. Proceeds benefit student scholarships. *Noon–7 p.m. (Dec. 1), 2–7 p.m. (Nov. 30), & noon–4 p.m. (Dec. 2), Concordia University Earhart Manor, 4090 Geddes. Tickets $5 ($7 includes a tour of the manor) in advance at cuaa.edu/manorchristmas. Reservations recommended to avoid long lines at the door. 995–7509.*

"The Magic Flute": Fathom Events. Broadcast of the **Metropolitan Opera**'s abridged English version of Mozart's beloved "opéra fantaisie." At once a love story, a whimsical comedy, and an adventure filled with sinister deceptions, *The Magic Flute* is above all an unsurpassed celebration, by turns jubilant and unsettlingly haunting, of the power of music. *12:55 p.m., Quality 16 (3686 Jackson), Ann Arbor 20 (4100 Carpenter), Emagine (1335 E. Michigan Ave., Saline). Tickets $14 & $15 in advance at fathomevents.com/events. 623–7469 (Quality 16), 973–8424 (Ann Arbor 20), 316–5500 (Emagine).*

"Creature Encounters": The Creature Conservancy. *Every Sat. & Sun.* Conservancy staffers show off **Sven the reindeer** (2 & 4 p.m.). Also, presentations every half hour of different **Eurasian animals** (binturongs, a legless lizard, and a Shire horse) and a chance to see the conservancy's other animals, including a cougar, African crested porcupines, a kangaroo, bald eagle, an Arctic fox, and more. *1–5 p.m., Creature Conservancy, 4950 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $10 (kids ages 2–12, $8; age 1 & under, free). 929–9324.*

★**German Family Open House: Kempf House Museum.** *Dec. 1, 2, & 9.* Guided tours of this restored 19th-century Greek Revival home, which is decked out with a traditional tree and decorations and exhibits reflecting a typical early–20th-century German American celebration of Christmas. Christmas cookies. Also, on Dec. 9 only, **caroling** (4–5 p.m.) around Kempf House's 1877 Steinway grand piano. *1–4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free; donations welcome. 994–4898.*

★**"Follow the Star: Christmas Crèche Exhibit": Holy Faith Episcopal Church/ELCA Lutheran Church.** Display of more than 200 nativities from around the world, including a room devoted to children's nativity sets. Cookies & hot cocoa. *1–5 p.m., Holy Faith Church, 6299 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., Saline. Free. 429–2991.*

★**"Merry Mitten Signing": Nicola's Books.** Four Michigan picture book writers read from and discuss their books. Maria Dismondy's ***The Fruit Salad Friend*** is about a girl who discovers the recipe for lasting friendship. Lisa Wheeler's ***A Hug Is for Holding Me*** is a cozy look at love and affection. Supriya Kelkar's ***The Many Colors of Harpreet Singh*** is about an Indian American boy who expresses himself through colors. Lisa Rose's ***Star Powers*** series revolves around a kid space expert and her science adventures. Signing. *1 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**"Holiday Nature Crafts": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalists Kelsey Dehring and Shawn Severance lead family-friendly crafts, including pinecone trees, grapevine wreaths, and more. Hot cocoa. Michigan-grown chestnuts on hand for roasting. *2–4 p.m., Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings, Dexter. Free; preregistration required at parksonline.ewashtenaw.org. $6 vehicle entry fee. 971–6337.*

★**"Abstraction, Color, Politics: A Leisurely Look": UMMA.** Curator Pam Reister discusses Shari Tishman's *Slow Looking,* which outlines strategies for observing art. Followed by a chance to try them out while viewing the current exhibit, *Abstraction, Color, and Politics in the Early 1970s. 2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

★**"Urban Biographies, Ancient and Modern": U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.** Curator Kathy Velikov leads a tour of the current exhibit that explores archaeological finds in 3 ancient cities—Gabii (Italy), Notion (Turkey), and Olynthos (Greece)—and compares them to urban renewal projects in contemporary Detroit. *2 p.m., Kelsey Museum, 434 S. State. Free. 764–9304.*

★**Voices Valiant.** This U-M-based choir for adults age 50 & up performs Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah," Billings' "Modern Musick" and "When Jesus Wept," and several works by Mozart, including the Kyrie from his Requiem, "Fa-La-La," "Due Pupille Amabili," Ryan Kelly's arrangement of *Two Mozart Classics,* and more. *2 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin. Free. 615–3204.*

"The Nutcracker": Ballet Chelsea. *Dec. 1 & 2.* Wendi DuBois directs this Chelsea-based company of young dancers ages 8–18 in her choreography of Tchaikovsky's ballet, with narration based on E.T.A. Hoffmann's "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King." Live accompaniment by the **Jackson Symphony Orchestra.** The show is preceded at 12:30 p.m. by a **Sugar Plum Fairy Tea** ($15 in advance only) featuring cast visits, photos, and refreshments. *2 p.m., Chelsea High School, 740 N. Freer, Chelsea. $15–30 (students, $10–25) in advance at balletchelsea.org and at the door. 475–3070.*

★**Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club.** *Every Sat.* All invited to practice juggling. Beginners welcome. Attendees advised to call ahead if there's inclem-

Artists' Collective
20th ANNIVERSARY GIFT-FEST
SUNDAY • DECEMBER 2nd • 10-4
PITTSFIELD GRANGE HALL • 3337 ANN ARBOR-SALINE RD.
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Wild Lights AT THE DETROIT ZOO
Presented by Strategic Staffing Solutions
More than five million LED lights will brighten the evening sky and illuminate trees, buildings and 265 sculptures – more than 220 of which are animals – throughout the front half of the Zoo.
Buy your tickets early and save!
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November 17-18, 23-25, 30
December 1-2, 7-9, 14-16, 20-23, 26-31
Select weeknights and Sundays 5:30 – 9 p.m.
Fridays and Saturdays 5:30 – 10 p.m.

35th Annual
Ann Arbor City Club
Arts and Crafts Festival
Saturday, December 1, 2018
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Ceramics
Photography
Jewelry
Dolls
Nature Crafts
Wood Working
Watercolors
Helen Springer Baskets
Textiles/Fabric Art
Written Works
Much More!
Juried show featuring 50 exhibitors
Great for holiday shopping!
Lunch available 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
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Holiday Greens
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Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734-662-3279
www.annarborcityclub.org

December Events

Joyce DiDonato
by Simon Pauly

Handel's *Messiah*

UMS Choral Union
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
Scott Hanoian, conductor
Saturday, December 1 // 8 pm
Sunday, December 2 // 2 pm
Hill Auditorium

UMS's annual presentation of the Handel's *Messiah* fills audiences with emotion for both the beauty of the piece and the pride of hearing friends and colleagues from the community bring this glorious work to life.

Supporting Sponsor: **Carl and Isabelle Brauer Endowment Fund**
Media Partners: **WRCJ 90.9 FM** and **Ann Arbor's 107one**

Charles Lloyd & The Marvels
with special guest Lucinda Williams

Charles Lloyd, tenor saxophone and flute
Lucinda Williams, vocals
Bill Frisell, guitars
Greg Leisz, pedal steel guitar
Reuben Rogers, bass
Eric Harland, drums

Saturday, December 8 // 8 pm
Michigan Theater

Performing selections from their new Blue Note release, *Vanished Gardens*.

Funded in part by: **JazzNet Endowment Fund**
Media Partners: **WEMU 89.1 FM**, **WDET 101.9 FM**, **Ann Arbor's 107one**, and **Metro Times**

National Theatre, London Live in HD
The Madness of George III

By **Alan Bennett**
Sunday, December 9 // 7 pm
Michigan Theater

It's 1786 and King George III is the most powerful man in the world. But his behavior is becoming increasingly erratic as he succumbs to fits of lunacy. With the King's mind unraveling at a dramatic pace, ambitious politicians and the scheming Prince of Wales threaten to undermine the power of the Crown.

Presented in partnership with the Michigan Theater.

Schubert's *Winterreise*
Joyce DiDonato, mezzo-soprano
Yannick Nézet-Séguin, piano

Sunday, December 16 // 4 pm
Hill Auditorium

Performed in German with English supertitles.

Patron Sponsor: **Susan B. Ullrich Endowment Fund**
Media Partners: **WRCJ 90.9 FM** and **WGTE 91.3 FM**

The Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow Live in HD
The Nutcracker

Choreographed by **Yuri Grigorovich**
Sunday, December 23 // 2 pm
Michigan Theater

As the clock strikes midnight on Christmas Eve, Marie's wooden nutcracker doll comes to life and transforms into a prince! Soon joined by her other toys, Marie and her prince embark on a dreamy, unforgettable adventure.

Presented in partnership with the Michigan Theater.

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poetry

Elizabeth Alexander

Walking forward in that light

ANDREW H. WALKER/THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION

When Elizabeth Alexander recited her poem "Praise Song for the Day" at President Obama's first inauguration in 2009, I didn't like the poem. Like many poetry readers I thought I heard something too rhetorical, too made-to-order, a bit flat. I was completely wrong.

In 2012, Alexander's husband died, just after his fiftieth birthday, and a few years after that she published *The Light of the World,* a deeply moving memoir of their relationship and her grief. That book was a finalist for the Pulitzer, and it became an essential book people have turned to in their own grief. In a new afterword to the paperback edition, Alexander writes that she hoped "the particulars" of her marriage and family life would "radiate outward and be meaningful in ever-widening circles. For loss is our common denominator."

One of the best things a book like this can do for a poet is to send its readers back to her earlier work. I went back to *Crave Radiance,* her 2010 collection that covers her writing life from 1990 to 2010. In her early work, Alexander moved into history—primarily African American history—and entered the characters she wrote about. The poems are a deep lesson in empathy for people as diverse as Paul Robeson, Muhammad Ali, Monet, Romare Bearden, Pablo Neruda, Nelson Mandela, and Frank Willis, the almost-forgotten security guard who first discovered the Watergate break in.

Alexander also writes wonderful dream sequences, and she has written memorably about pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum depression. In "Postpartum Dream #12" she dreams she has been called to be a Supreme Court Justice:

> Maybe I could do it
> when the baby
> goes to kindergarten. Maybe
> I could do it
> on alternate Mondays.

The dream is funny, of course, but it is also a bit of a nightmare. Although I suspect these poems are loved by women who share her experience, they are also necessary for men like me.

Reading *Crave Radiance* today, I found myself completely startled when, near the end, I came again to "Praise Song for the Day." Perhaps my reading of the poem has been changed by everything we've been through recently—now the end of the poem hits like a hammer. "What if the mightiest word is love?" Alexander asks, and then concludes

> Love beyond marital, filial, national,
> love that casts a widening pool of light,
> love with no need to pre-empt grievance.
>
> In today's sharp sparkle, this winter air,
> any thing can be made, any sentence begun.
> On the brink, on the brim, on the cusp,
>
> praise song for walking forward in that light.

Alexander reads at UMMA as part of the Zell Visiting Writers Series on Tuesday, December 4.

—Keith Taylor

ent weather. *2:30–5 p.m., U-M Diag. Free. juggling.info@umich.edu, umich.edu/~juggle, 761–1115.*

★**"Board Game Afternoon": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to play board games in the AADL collection, including Oregon Trail, Ticket to Ride, Yeti in My Spaghetti, Dominion, Sushi Go, Stratego, Grand Austria Hotel, Spaceteam, & more. Bring your own, if you wish. *2:30–5:30 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Paper Flower Gift Toppers & Paper Gift Boxes": Ann Arbor District Library.** All grade 6–adult invited to learn how to make poinsettias and gift boxes out of colored paper. *3–4 p.m., AADL Traverwood. Free. 327–4200.*

"Strum & Drum": Oz's Music Environment. Families invited to get on stage to sing and make music on a variety of instruments. Also, at 4 p.m. a free **Kids Open Stage.** *3–4 p.m., Oz's, 1920 Packard. $15 per family. 662–8283.*

★**Pittsfield Open Band: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance.** *Dec. 1 & 15.* All musicians invited for a contra dance music open jam. Bring Judi Morningstar's *The Ruffwater Fakebook,* Susan Songer's *The Portland Collection,* and Bill Matthiesen's *The Waltz Book* if you have them. *3–6 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 994–9307.*

"Cheese & Beer": Zingerman's Creamery. Zingerman's cheesemakers discuss and offer taste samples of beers paired with artisan cheeses. Bread and additional accompaniments. *3–5 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. $45. Reservations required. 929–0500.*

"Just in the Nick of Time": Saline Area Players. *Nov. 29-Dec. 2.* Barbara Day directs local actors in Linda Daugherty's 2008 comic whodunit about ace detective Red Mistletoe's efforts to find Santa, who's disappeared from the North Pole at the height of the season. *3 p.m. (Dec. 1 & 2) & 7:30 p.m. (Nov. 29 & 30), The 5th Corner, 211 Willis Rd., Saline. Tickets $6. Salineareaplayers.org*

"Star Trek Puppet Show": Dreamland Theater. *Dec. 1, 8, & 16.* The Dreamland Puppet Troupe performs a show based on the original Star Trek series. *3 p.m. (Dec. 1), 7:30 p.m. (Dec. 8), & 4:30 p.m. (Dec. 16), Dreamland, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. $10 or pay what you can. 657–2337.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Purdue. Sold out. The U-M also has games this month against **South Carolina** (Dec. 8, noon), **WMU** (Dec. 15, 2 p.m.), **Air Force** (Dec. 22, 4 p.m.), and **Binghamton** (Dec. 30, noon). *3:30 p.m., Crisler Center. Tickets $20–$40 at mgoblue.com/tickets. 764–0247.*

32nd Annual Winter Concert: Ann Arbor Youth Chorale. The AAYC descant and concert choirs of talented young local singers ages 9–16 perform a program of seasonal music TBA. *4 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets $10 (seniors age 65 & over and students, $5) at the door only. 996–4404.*

22nd Annual Holiday Home Tour: Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels Fundraiser. Tour of 5 historic Ypsilanti homes decorated for the holidays. Also, an **afterglow party** (8–11 p.m., Back Office Studio, 13 N. Washington, Ypsilanti) with live music by the local Rob Crozier Trio, along with beverages, appetizers, and desserts from area restaurants. *5–9 p.m., various locations. Tickets $70 in advance at a2tix.com, Nelson Amos Studio, Haab's restaurant, and the YMOW office (1110 Cross). 487–9669.*

★**Annual Christmas Parade: Saline Area Chamber of Commerce.** The 43rd annual parade features floats, bands, baton twirlers, dancers, animals, a hot air balloon, and Santa in his sleigh. *5:30–7:30 p.m., downtown Saline. Free shuttle available from Busch's shopping center, 565 E. Michigan Ave. Free. 429–4494.*

★**"13th Annual Holiday Kirtan Party": Ann Arbor Kirtan.** All invited to join a group performance of this traditional devotional call-and-response music based on Hindu Vaishnava texts and the writings of poet/saints. Accompanied by live music based on rhythmic Indian ragas on bass guitar, tabla, and drums. The program begins with a social hour (bring a healthy snack or dessert to share). Chai & a selection of teas served. *6:30–9:30 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. Free, but donations accepted. 761–7435.*

"23rd Annual Evening of Sacred Song: A Seasonal Celebration of Peace, Community, and Spirit": Sacred Song. This ad hoc local multi-ethnic vocal ensemble performs songs from various spiritual traditions addressing social change, peace, and justice. With and without instrumental accompaniment. Also, sing-alongs. Performers include Faye Askew-King, Cassandra Compton-Montgomery, Deborah Greene, D. Yarrow Halstead, Gwynne Jennings, Nancy Kerner, Edie Lewis, Jeff Pickell, Phil Roos, La'Ron Williams, Robin Wilson, along with guest keyboard virtuoso Brian Buckner. Reception follows. Proceeds benefit Washtenaw County Poor People's Campaign. *7 p.m., First Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $20 in advance before Dec. 1, $25 (or what you can afford to pay) at the door. Kids under age 12, free. 761–7962, 369–4977.*

Winter Showcase: Salto Dance Company. This U-M student dance troupe performs classical and contemporary ballet. Also, performances by other student groups, including **Léim Irish Dance, Vibrance Dance Company,** and opera singer **Emilia Butryn.** *7 p.m., Mendelssohn Theater, 911 North University. $10 (students, $8; kids age 11 & under, free). (904) 762–8652.*

Nefesh Mountain: Aleph Alliance for Jewish Renewal. Bluegrass/Jewish folk fusion by this New Jersey-based husband-and-wife duo of Doni Zasloff and Eric Lindberg, who infuse traditional bluegrass with vocals occasionally sung in Hebrew and lyrical hooks derived from Jewish liturgy. The result is "musical perfection, uplifting and withholding at the same time," says a *No Depression* critic of their recent acclaimed album, *Beneath the Open Sky. 7:30 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. Tickets $20 (students, $10) at bit.ly/NefeshMountainMichigan2018, $25 at the door. 971–0990.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. MSU. The U-M also has a series this month vs. **Minnesota** (Dec. 7 & 8, 8 p.m.). *7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State. Tickets $30–$40 at stubhub.com/michigan-wolverines-hockey-ticket. 764–0247.*

1st Saturday Contra: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Marlin Whitaker calls to live music by Liberty String Band. All dances taught; no partner needed. Bring clean shoes. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a lesson for beginners. *7:30–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $11 (members, $10; students, $6). 646–4835, 274–0773.*

"Drum and Dance Jam": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. All invited to join a drum circle led by percussionist Curtis Glatter. Bring a drum or use one provided. *7:30–9 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. $5 suggested donation. 480–1219.*

41st Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. *Nov. 30-Dec. 2.* Elegantly elaborate medieval English pageant celebrating Christ's birth with a blend of religious pageantry and secular pomp. Gerard Dzuiblinski and Brian Altevogt direct a cast of more than 100 Concordia students, faculty, and staff as Beefeaters, hunters, jesters, and other court characters, as well as traditional Christmas shepherds and magi. With musical narration, congregational singing, and a full orchestra. This hugely popular event usually sells out. *7:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) & 4 p.m. (Sun.), Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets $10–$16 in advance at cuaa.edu/kreftarts & by phone. 995–7537.*

Chris DuPont & Katie Van Dusen: Rancho Tranquilico. House concert by the local duo of folk-rock singer-songwriter DuPont and violinist Van Dusen. BYOB and a folding chair (not a stadium chair). Water & cookies provided. *Note:* Shoes not allowed indoors; bring slippers, if you wish. *7:30 p.m. (doors*

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U-M Groove. High-energy performance by this U-M student percussion-and-dance ensemble, which uses both traditional and nontraditional instruments (trash cans, propane tanks, toothbrushes, and more). *7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), Michigan Theater. Tickets $8 (students, $5) in advance at ticketmaster.com, and (if available) at the door. (800) 745–3000.*

"Hello Dolly!": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. *Every Thurs.-Sun. Through Dec. 23.* This local professional theater company performs Jerry Herman's long-running 1964 musical about a charismatic, opportunistic woman out to make a quick buck. Complications arise when she tries to play matchmaker to the wealthy Horace Vandergelder. The score includes such memorable songs as "Put on Your Sunday Clothes," "It Only Takes a Moment," and the title tune. *7:30 p.m. (Thurs.-Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), Encore, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Tickets $32 (seniors, $30; youth & groups of 10 or more, $28) on Thurs.; $36 (seniors, $34; youth & groups of 10 or more, $32) on Fri. & Sat. eve.; $34 (seniors, $32; youth & groups of 10 or more, $30) for all matinees in advance at theencoretheatre.org and at the door. $15 student rush tickets (if available) an hour before showtime. 268–6200.*

"The Elves and the Schumachers": Theatre Nova. *Every Fri.–Sun., Nov. 30-Dec. 30.* Carla Milarch directs the premiere of her musical panto based on the Grimm fairy tale "The Elves and the Shoemaker," with music by local composer R. Mackenzie Lewis. This year's multicultural celebration features 2 toy-making elves on the lam who wind up in a dreidel store. A panto is a British pantomime genre that blends children's stories with a bit of vaudeville sensibility to create a raucous family entertainment. This production features appearances by local celebrities, and all the candy you can eat. Stars Elizabeth Jaffe, Dan Morrison, and Sarah B. Stevens. *7:30 p.m. (Fri.– Sat.), 3 p.m. (Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), The Yellow Barn, 416 W. Huron. Tickets (if available) $20 (kids, $10) or pay what you can in advance at theatrenova.org and at the door. Members ($75 annual donation) receive priority access to all shows. 635–8450.*

Milonga: Michigan Argentine Tango Club. Tango dancing to music spun by a DJ. The club also hosts *practicas* ($5) on Mondays (8–11:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.) that include one-on-one work and open dancing. *8 p.m.–midnight, Michigan League Vandenberg Rm. $10 (members, $5). umich.edu/~matc*

★Euchre Night: Temple Beth Emeth. All invited to play. No partner necessary. *8 p.m., TBE Adult Lounge, 2309 Packard. Free. djostrei@umich.edu, 665–4744.*

★Wind Chamber Music Recital: U-M School of Music. *Dec. 1 & 2.* Performances by U-M student wind and brass ensembles. *8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. McIntosh Theatre, 1100 Baits. Free. 615–3204.*

"140th Annual Handel's Messiah": University Choral Union (University Musical Society). *Dec. 1 & 2.* Scott Hanoian directs the 175-voice Choral Union and members of the **Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra** in Handel's beloved oratorio. The soloists, all established professionals with national or international reputations, are soprano **Yulia Van Doren,** countertenor **John Holiday,** tenor **Miles Mykkanen,** and bass **Alex Rosen.** The Choral Union *Messiah,* featuring a thunderous sing-along of the "Hallelujah" Chorus, has been an Ann Arbor tradition ever since organist (and U-M president) Henry Frieze led an impromptu community chorus in the spring of 1879, a performance that led to the formation of both the Choral Union and the UMS. *8 p.m. (Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Hill Auditorium. $16–$40 in advance at ums.org, by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764–2538.*

★"World Map Concerti": Kerrytown Concert House. U-M Life Sciences Orchestra conductor Chelsea Gallo conducts the new Ann Arbor– & NYC-based **Four Corners Ensemble** in Shuying Li's collection of 4 mini-concertos highlighting the cultural heritage and personality of each of the 4 soloists: flutist (and U-M grad) **Erika Boysen,** pianist **Siyuan Li,** clarinetist **Joshua Anderson** (an Ann Arbor native), and cellist **Richard Narroway.** *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free; $10 suggested donation. kerrytownconcerthouse.com, 769–2999.*

Dance and Related Arts Concert: U-M Dance Department. *Nov. 30 & Dec. 1.* U-M dance majors perform multimedia collaborations with student and faculty composers, musicians, theatrical designers, sculptors, photographers, vocalists, and creative writers. *8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. $7 at the door only. 763–5460.*

★"Bright Half Life": U-M Residential College Players. *Nov. 30 & Dec. 1.* RC student Maddie Lukomski directs RC students in Tanya Barfield's 2014 LAMBDA-winning 2-character play, an emotionally searing look at a deeply committed but doomed interracial lesbian relationship. *8 p.m., Keene Theatre, East Quad, 701 East University. Free; donations welcome. 763–0176.*

"Diva Royale": Purple Rose Theatre Company. *Every Wed.–Sun. through Dec. 29.* Guy Sanville directs the world premiere of Jeff Daniels' new comedy about 3 Midwestern stay-at-home moms heading to NYC to see Céline Dion whose plans go hilariously awry as soon as they get on the plane. Cast: Rhiannon Ragland, Kate Thomsen, Kristin Shields, and Rusty Mewha. *8 p.m. (Thurs.-Sat.), 3 p.m. (Wed. & Sat. and Nov. 23), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets $30 (Wed.), $27 (Thurs.), $41 (Fri. eve. & weekend matinees), $46 (Sat. eve.) in advance at purplerosetheatre.org and by phone, and (if available) at the door. Discounts available for students, seniors, teachers, military personnel, and groups. 433–7673.*

Bill Hildebrandt: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Nov. 29–Dec. 1. This veteran Detroit-area comic is known for his clever, good-natured, often surprising topical and observational humor. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $11 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

"Pointless Improv Shows": Pointless Brewery & Theatre. *Every Sat., except Dec. 29.* Comedic improv by experienced local performers. *8 & 10 p.m., Pointless, 3014 Packard. Tickets $15 (8 p.m.) & $12 (10 p.m.). info@pointlessbrew.com, (989) 455–4484.*

Wilder vs. Fury: Fathom Events. Live broadcast of the World Heavyweight Championship boxing match. *9 p.m., Quality 16 (3686 Jackson) & Ann Arbor 20 (4100 Carpenter). Tickets $22 & $25 in advance at fathomevents.com/events. 623–7469 (Quality 16), 973–8424 (Ann Arbor 20).*

2 SUNDAY

Christmas Bazaar: First Presbyterian Church. Sale of handmade jewelry, ornaments, Fair Trade coffee and chocolate, and more. Proceeds benefit the church's missions. *8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., 1432 Washtenaw. Free admission. 662–4466.*

Saline Antiques & Vintage Market. Show and sale of antiques and vintage items in various styles. Deliveries available. Concessions. Leashed pets welcome. *9 a.m.–4 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $5 (children age 15 & under accompanied by an adult, free). salinemarket@gmail.com, (937) 875–0808.*

★Winter Democratic Rides: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Sun.* The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination. *Note:* Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, a cell phone, and snacks. *10 a.m. & 1 p.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 996–9122 (10 a.m.) & 347–1259 (1 p.m.).*

Gift-Fest: Ann Arbor Artists' Collective. 20th annual holiday show and sale of original works in jewelry, clothing, ceramics, glass, painting, and more. Refreshments & a raffle of artist-made ornaments. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free admission. 272–2901.*

"Winter Artist Market": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Local artists show and sell their handmade, nature-inspired work, including paintings, photography, textiles, jewelry, and more. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free admission; metered parking. 647–7600.*

★H.A.C. Ultimate. *Every Sun.* All invited to a relaxed pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. *Note:* Overly competitive players are politely asked to leave. *11:15 a.m., Fuller Park, just west of the pool & parking lot (or occasionally across the street). Free. hac-ultimatelist@googlegroups.com, 846–9418.*

The Sunday Artisan Market. *Dec. 2, 9, & 23.* Juried market that features local handmade arts and crafts. *11 a.m.–4 p.m., Farmers Market, Kerrytown. Free admission. 913–9622.*

"Country Christmas": Cobblestone Farm Association. Re-creation of a mid-19th-century Christmas, with period decorations, cooking on the woodstove, kids activities, and live holiday music. Sale of handmade crafts from local crafters. Costumed interpreters provide tours of the restored 1844 Ticknor-Campbell farmhouse and its grounds. *Noon–4 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). $2 (family, $5; seniors, $1.50; kids, $1; & children under 3, free). 794–7120.*

"A Manor Christmas": Concordia University. See 1 Saturday. Noon–4 p.m.

"Don Quixote": Fathom Events. Broadcast of the **Bolshoi Ballet** production of Marius Petipa's choreography based on Cervantes's classic novel. With music by Ludwig Minkus. *12:55 p.m., Ann Arbor*

20 (4100 Carpenter) & Emagine (1335 E. Michigan Ave., Saline). Tickets $17 & $20 in advance at fathomevents.com/events. 973–8424 (Ann Arbor 20) & 316–5500 (Emagine).

Magic: The Gathering Tournament: Get Your Game On. *Every Sun.–Wed. & Fri., except Dec. 25 & 31.* All invited to play in competitive or casual tournaments of this popular collectible card game using various decks, including **modern** (Mon., competitive; Fri., 6:30 p.m., casual), **Elder Dragon Highlander/Commander** (Tues., casual), **standard** (Wed. 6 p.m., casual), **Legacy** (Wed. 6:30 p.m., competitive), and **Booster Draft** (Fri. 6 p.m. & Sun. 1 p.m., competitive) decks. Bring your own cards for casual tournaments. Also, the 2-person card game **Netrunner** (free) at 6 p.m. on Mondays. *1 p.m. (Sun.), 6 p.m. (Wed. & Fri.), & 6:30 p.m. (Mon.–Wed. & Fri.), Get Your Game On, 310 S. State. $5 (casual), $10 (competitive), & free (Tues.). 786–3746.*

★**"What You Need to Know About Will and Estate Records": Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County.** Talk by Lansing-based genealogist Jeff Mason. Followed by an intro for beginning genealogists on how to use census records and city directories. *1:30 & 3:15 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center auditorium, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off E. Huron River Dr. at Clark Rd.). Use parking lot P and look for the club's signs. Free. 483–2799.*

U-M Women's Gymnastics. The defending Big Ten champion, a perennial national power, opens its season with an exhibition match vs. **CMU, EMU,** and **WMU.** *2 p.m., Crisler Center. Tickets TBA. 764–0247.*

★**"Snowshoe Hike": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** An REI showshoe expert shows how to use snowshoes. Followed by a chance to try it out. All ages welcome. Snowshoes provided. *2–4 p.m., Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings, Dexter. Free; $6 vehicle entry fee. Preregistration required by phone or email. pahlj@washtenaw.org, 449–4437, ext. 201.*

★**"Abstraction, Color, and Politics in the Early 1970s": UMMA.** Docent-led tour of the current exhibit of large-scale abstract works by sculptors Louise Nevelson and Al Loving and painters Helen Frankenthaler, Joan Mitchell, and Sam Gilliam. *2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

★**Drop-In Tour: U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.** Docent-led tour of highlights of the museum. *2 p.m., Kelsey Museum, 434 S. State. Free. 764–9304.*

★**"Felt Ball Fun!": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local crafter Beth Battey shows how to make a felt ball using cotton roving, soap, and water. Supplies provided. For all ages. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Classical Chinese Poems and Songs": U-M Confucius Institute.** Shanghai Normal University music students present a lecture-recital of poems and songs dating from the 11th–7th centuries BC taken from the *Shijing,* the oldest existing collection of Chinese poetry. *2 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free; preregistration required at confucius.umich.edu. 764–8888.*

★**Ann Arbor TubaChristmas.** Annual outdoor performance, now in its 21st year, of holiday carols on tubas, euphoniums, sousaphones, and baritone horns. One of many outdoor concerts held today across the nation and in Canada in memory of TubaChristmas founder Harvey Phillips. Musicians invited to bring an instrument and a music stand (with clothespins) to join around 40 players in the performance. Registration (9:30 a.m.) and rehearsal (10 a.m.) are at the U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium (1226 Murfin). Bring a sack lunch. Music books ($16) & TubaChristmas hats ($15) available. A hat, gloves, and sunglasses recommended. *2–3 p.m., Farmers Market. Free to spectators ($10 for musicians). 395–9544.*

★**Michigan Youth Jazz Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** This ensemble of young area musicians performs a variety of big band repertoire. *2 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Hankinson Rehearsal Hall, 1100 Baits. Free. 615–3204.*

"140th Annual Handel's Messiah": University Choral Union (University Musical Society). See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Nutcracker": Ballet Chelsea. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Hello Dolly!": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Elves and the Schumachers": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Diva Royale": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

★**"Drawing for Adults": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Sun. except Dec. 23 & 30.* Ann Arbor Art Center artists host a different directed drawing activity each week. *3–5 p.m., Downtown 4th fl. meeting rm. (Dec. 2 & 16), Malletts Creek (Dec. 9). Free. 327–4200.*

"Gelato 101": Zingerman's Creamery. *Dec. 2 & 30.* Discussion & samples of the creamery's many flavors of gelato and sorbet. *3–5 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. $30. Reservations required. 929–0500.*

"Just in the Nick of Time": Saline Area Players. See 1 Saturday. 3 p.m.

Holiday Concert: Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra. Adam Riccinto directs this volunteer community orchestra in Dvorak's Symphony No. 8 in G minor and a medley from *The Polar Express.* The symphony is joined by the **Boychoir of Ann Arbor** in "Ding Dong Merrily on High," Ralph Schultz's *Christmas Mosaic,* and J.S. Bach's "Wachet Auf" cantata. The Boychoir also performs its own set. *3:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. $12 (seniors age 65 & older, students with ID, & kids under age 12, $6; family, $30) in advance at a2tix.com and at the door. 507–1451.*

★**Beer & Board Games: Pointless Brewery & Theatre.** *Dec. 2, 9, & 16.* All invited to play board games. Some games provided (or you can bring your own, if you wish). *4–7 p.m., Pointless, 3014 Packard. Free admission (buy your own beer). info@pointlessbrew.com, (989) 455–4484.*

41st Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. See 1 Saturday. 4 p.m.

★**Ann Arbor Go Club.** *Every Sun. & Thurs.* Players of all skill levels invited to play this challenging strategy board game. No partner necessary. Boards and stones provided. *5 p.m. (Sun.) & 7 p.m. (Thurs.), Espresso Royale, 324 S. State. Meetings run until closing time, usually midnight. Free. umich.edu/~goclub*

★**Ann Arbor Morris.** *Every Sun.* All invited to try this boisterous, jingly English ceremonial dance thought to be descended from the 15th-century Spanish *moresca.* Wear athletic shoes. *6–8 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse. Free. Email a2morris@umich.edu to confirm or check meetup.com/Ann-Arbor-Morris-Dancing. 717–1569.*

Aaron Wolfe: EMU Center for Jewish Studies. Storytelling by this New Jersey-based author and playwright, a Moth GrandSLAM winner whose stories have been featured on NPR and The Moth podcast. Hors d'oeuvres at 6 p.m. Reception and desserts. *6:30–9 p.m., EMU Sponberg Theatre, Quirk Hall, Ypsilanti. Tickets $18 (students, $10) at tinyurl.com/ycmyq7z5. 487–0978.*

★**"Big Season Finale": Ann Arbor Poetry.** Reading by Detroit poet **Justin Rogers,** author of *Chaos in the City.* Also, readings by high school poets in the after-school program **Citywide Poets Detroit.** *7 p.m. Espresso Royale, 324 S. State. $5 suggested donation. facebook.com/AnnArborPoetry*

★**"Music for Meditation": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** Performance by Washington, D.C.-based classical guitarist **Charles Mokotoff,** who lost most of his hearing when he was 15. "His playing is a mix of strong tone, pianistic at times, but also capable of beautiful legato phrasing and a natural feel for forward movement," writes a *Classical Guitar Music* reviewer. *7:15 p.m., St. Andrew's, 306 N. Division. Free. 663–0518.*

Ballroom Dance Club at the U-M. *Every Sun. except Dec. 23 & 30.* Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. *8–10 p.m., Michigan League Vandenberg Rm. $5. 763–6984.*

★**Yizhak Schotten: U-M School of Music.** This U-M viola professor is joined by U-M music faculty and students in Mozart's Clarinet Quintet, Beethoven's *With Two Eyeglasses Obligato,* Brahms' Two Songs for Viola and Mezzo-Soprano, and Schulhoff's Concertino for Flute, Viola and Bass. *8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits. Free. 615–3204.*

Alberto Rojo Trio: Kerrytown Concert House. Argentinian folk songs, jazz standards with a South American flair, and more by this ensemble, led by Rojo, an acclaimed Argentine guitarist who has recorded with the celebrated singer Mercedes Sosa, Rojo's self-proclaimed "number one fan." *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $15–$30 (students, $10) in advance at a2tix.com/events/12–2-2018-albertorojotrio. Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

3 MONDAY

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus.** *Every Mon., Sept. 10–Dec. 10.* All invited to join this independent 30-member local women's chorus to sing everything from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. David Perample directs. *10–11:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free to visitors ($125 per semester dues for those who join). womenschamberchorus.com; 665–9271.*

Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Mon., Wed., & Thurs. except Dec. 24 & 31.* All ages invited to play non-sanctioned (Mon.) & ACBL-sanctioned (Wed. & Thurs.) duplicate bridge. Bring a partner. Refreshments. *12:30–4 p.m. (Mon.), & noon–3:45 p.m. (Wed. & Thurs.), Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $3 (members, $2) on Mon., $7 (members, $6) on Wed. & Thurs. 794–6250.*

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Social Mah-Jongg: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Mon. except Dec. 24 & 31.* Seniors invited to play this intricate game resembling gin rummy that's played with colorful tiles instead of cards. *Noon–3 p.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $2 (members, free). 794–6250.*

★**Bridge: U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.** *Every Mon. & Fri. except Dec. 24, 28, & 31.* Seniors invited to play bridge. Some experience necessary. *12:30–4:30 p.m., Turner, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★**Writing Group: U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.** Seniors invited to read and discuss poetry, essays, fiction, and reminiscences they have written. *1–3 p.m., Turner, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★**"The Sentimental Body: Medical Humanitarianism and the Late Colonial Public in Indonesia": U-M Science, Technology, and Society Program.** U-M history postdoc Kevin Ko discusses missionary medical care during the late Dutch colonial period (1900–42). *4–5:30 p.m., 1014 Tisch Hall, 435 S. State. Free. 763–2066.*

★**"Ann Arbor Group Runs": Running Fit.** *Every Mon.–Wed., except Dec. 24 & 25.* Runners of all abilities invited to join a weekly run, 3–8 miles, along varying routes from different Running Fit locations. Snacks provided. Rain or shine. *6:30 p.m., 123 E. Liberty (Mon.), 5700 Jackson (Tues.), and 3010 Washtenaw (Wed.). Free. 769–5016 (Mon.), 929–9022 (Tues.), 548–6299 (Wed.).*

★**"Wool Gathering": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Dec. 3, 11, & 17.* All grade 6–adult invited to bring their knitting & crochet projects and interact with fellow crafters. Other fiber-based artists welcome. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab (Dec. 3 & 17) & 1–3 p.m., AADL Westgate (Dec. 11). Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Cookie & Candy Making 101": Ann Arbor District Library.** People's Food Co-op head baker Keegan Rodgers leads a hands-on introduction to making and properly storing chocolate truffles, rock candy, different types of brittle, and different classic holiday cookies. Recipes. For adults and teens in grade 6 & up. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown 4th fl. meeting rm. Free. 327–4200.*

★**Fiber Arts Group: Women of Temple Beth Emeth.** *Dec. 3 & 17.* All invited to bring knitting, crocheting, and other craft projects to work on. The group also works on an Israeli peace quilt. *7–9 p.m., TBE Adult Lounge, 2309 Packard. Free. weintraub.martha@gmail.com*

★**Lifetree Café.** *Dec. 3, 10, & 17.* All invited to join conversations led by St. Paul Lutheran Church members. Each week begins with a video introduction. Snacks provided. *Dec. 3:* **"Sign Here: What Your Handwriting Reveals About You and Others."** *Dec. 10:* **"My Son Is Gay: When Faith and Sexual Orientation Collide."** *Dec. 17:* **"Come Together: The Healing Power of Friends and Family."** *7–8 p.m., 500 W. Liberty. Free. 665–7912.*

★**"What Is Real? The Unfinished Quest for the Meaning of Quantum Physics": Literati Bookstore.** Oakland (CA) science writer and astrophysicist **Adam Becker** discusses his new book about the history of philosophical debates surrounding quantum physics. *7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585–5567.*

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. *Dec. 3, 10, & 17.* Jigs, reels, and strathspeys. Usually with live music. All dances taught; beginners welcome. *7:30–9:30 p.m., the Barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver. $5. 395–7782, 274–0773.*

★**Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society.** All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Directed by viol teacher and early music specialist Janet Cannon. Music provided; bring your own music stand. *7:30–9 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free to visitors ($40 monthly dues for those who join). a2recordersociety.org*

★**Orchestra Concert: Huron High School.** Program TBA. *7:30–9:30 p.m., HHS Meyers Auditorium, 2727 Fuller. 994–2040.*

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Mon. except Dec. 24 & 31.* Local high school English teacher Barry Aherne throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Come with a team (up to 6 people) or join one. Prizes. *8:30–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $5 team fee. 665–2968.*

4 TUESDAY

Coffee Break: Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church. *Every Tues. (when Ann Arbor Public Schools are in session) through May 14.* All women invited to study the Bible with other American and international women in small, informal groups. Also, Bible stories and fun activities for preschoolers, and child care provided for babies. *9:30–11:15 a.m. & 1:15–2:45 p.m., Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church, 1717 Broadway. $25 for the year. 665–0105.*

Ann Arbor Senior Center. $2 (members, free). 794–6250. 1320 Baldwin. 12:30–3 p.m.

Every Mon.: **"Movie Matinee,"** an informal screening of a DVD TBA in the Senior Center lobby.

Fathom Events. 623–7469 (Quality 16), 973–8424 (Ann Arbor 20), 316–5500 (Emagine). Tickets $11.50–$12.50 in advance at fathomevents.com and at the door. Quality 16 (3686 Jackson), Ann Arbor 20 (4100 Carpenter), & Emagine (1335 E. Michigan Ave., Saline), different times.

Nov. 27 & Dec. 3: **"Superman the Movie"** (Richard Donner, 1978). 40th anniversary screening of this superhero classic. Christopher Reeve. Ann Arbor 20 only. 2 p.m. (Nov. 27) & 7 p.m. (Nov. 27 & Dec. 3).

Nov. 28 & Dec. 1: **"Pokémon the Movie: The Power of Us"** (Tetsuo Yajima, 2018). Anime about threats to the annual Wind Festival, where a creature brings wind that powers the seaside. 7 p.m. (Nov. 28 at Ann Arbor 20 & Emagine only) & 12:55 p.m. (Dec. 1 at all theaters).

Dec. 2 & 5: **"Sleepless in Seattle"** (Nora Ephron, 1993). Classic rom-com about a recently engaged woman who becomes obsessed with meeting a widower she hears on a call-in radio show. Tom Hanks, Meg Ryan. Emagine only. 1 & 4 p.m. (Dec. 2) and 4 & 7 p.m. (Dec. 5).

Dec. 4: **"Allegiance to Broadway"** (Greg Vander Veer, 2018). Documentary about the making of George Takei's musical, *Allegiance,* about his experience in a Japanese internment camp during WWII. Quality 16 & Ann Arbor 20 only. 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 5: **"Mirai"** (Mamoru Hosoda, 2018). Anime about a boy, jealous of his new baby sister, who encounters strange people from the past and future, including his sister as a teenager. Ann Arbor 20 only. 7 p.m.

Dec. 8: **"Buttons"** (2018). Musical fairy tale about 19th-century orphans visited by unexpected visitors who change their lives forever. Angela Lansbury, Dick Van Dyke, Jane Seymour. 12:55 p.m.

Dec. 9 & 12: **"White Christmas"** (Michael Curtiz, 1954). Two nightclub performers help an old army pal try to make his winter resort popular. Musical score by Irving Berlin. Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney. Emagine only. 2 & 7 p.m.

Dec. 10 & 16: **"Jim Henson's Holiday Special."** Screening of 2 Henson puppet classics, *Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas* and *The Bells of Fraggle Rock*. Quality 16 & Emagine only. *Dec. 10 times:* 4 p.m. (Emagine only) & 7 p.m. (both theaters). *Dec. 16 times:* 1 & 4 p.m. (Emagine only).

Dec. 13: **"Never-Ending Man: Hayao Miyazaki"** (Kaku Arakawa, 2018). Documentary about the beloved anime film director. Emagine (both days) & Ann Arbor 20 (Dec. 18 only). 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 17: **"They Shall Not Grow Old"** (Peter Jackson, 2018). Poignant WWI documentary, with never-before-seen footage. Quality 16 & Ann Arbor 20 only. 4 p.m. (Quality 16 only) & 7 p.m. (both theaters).

Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. $5 suggested donation. 327–0270. 704 Airport Blvd., 8 p.m.

Dec. 15: **"Spiritual Cinema."** Screening of a feature film or several shorts TBA with spiritual themes. Followed by discussion.

Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. FREE. 994–3387. Jewel Heart (1129 Oak Valley Dr. between Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. & Ellsworth), 7 p.m.

Dec. 28: **"Sleuth"** (Joseph L. Mankiewicz, 1972). A man who enjoys games and theater invites his wife's lover to meet him, setting up a battle of wits with potentially deadly results. Laurence Olivier, Michael Caine. Discussion follows.

Michigan Theater Foundation. Unless there is a live show in the main theater, 2 or 3 different films are shown, usually 2–3 times a day. For complete, updated schedules, see michtheater.org or annarborobserver.com, or call 668-TIME. Tickets (unless otherwise noted): $10 (children under 12, students with ID, seniors age 65 & older, & U.S. veterans, $8; MTF members, $7.50; weekdays before 6 p.m., $7). Michigan Theater (unless otherwise noted), times TBA unless otherwise noted.

Opens Nov. 30: **"Mirai"** (Mamoru Hosoda, 2018). Animated film about a young boy who finds a magical garden that allows him to time travel and meet different relatives. Japanese, subtitles.

Dec. 1: **"Little Women"** (Gillian Armstrong, 1995). Adaptation of the Louisa May Alcott classic. Winona Ryder. FREE, 1:30 p.m.

Dec. 2, 3, & 5: **"The Great Buster"** (Peter Bogdanovich, 2018). Documentary about silent film comedian Buster Keaton.

Dec. 3: **"Point of No Return"** (Noel Dockstader & Quinn Kanaly, 2017). Documentary about the 1st attempt to fly a solar-powered plane around the world. FREE, 7 p.m.

Dec. 5: **"CatVideoFest."** Compilation of funny and cute online cat videos. A portion of sales goes to the Tiny Lions Cat Café. 7 p.m.

Opens Dec. 7: **"Maria by Callas"** (Tom Volf, 2018). Documentary about Greek American opera singer Maria Callas.

Dec. 7: **"Warren Miller's Face of Winter"** (2018). Recognized as the world's premier ski filmmaker, Miller began making family-oriented ski adventure films in 1950. Though no longer directed by Miller, the films are still a major draw on the West Coast, where they pack houses for weeklong runs, and at the Michigan Theater, whose annual showing usually draws 800 to 1,000 viewers. Tickets $12–$15. 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 9: **"Elf"** (Jon Favreau, 2003). Goofy comedy starring Will Ferrell as a man raised as an elf at the North Pole who goes to NYC to reunite with his biological father. James Caan, Zooey Deschanel, Mary Steenburgen. FREE, 1:30 p.m.

Opens Dec. 14: **"Roma"** (Alfonso Cuarón, 2018). B&W drama about a young domestic worker employed by a middle-class family in Mexico City during the political turmoil of the 1970s. Spanish, subtitles.

Opens Dec. 14: **"At Eternity's Gate"** (Julian Schnabel, 2018). Willem Defoe stars in this Vincent van Gogh biopic.

Dec. 16: **"It's a Wonderful Life"** (Frank Capra, 1946). Christmas classic about a man who wants to lasso the moon and an angel who hasn't yet earned his wings. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore. FREE, 1:30 p.m.

State Theatre. For complete, updated schedules, see statetheatrea2.org, annarborobserver.com, or call 668-TIME. Tickets (unless otherwise noted): $10 (children under 12, students with ID, seniors age 65 & older, & U.S. veterans, $8; MTF members, $7.50; weekdays before 6 p.m., $7). State Theatre, times TBA unless otherwise noted.

Opens Dec. 7: **"Border"** (Ali Abbasi, 2018). Suspenseful fantasy-romance about a female customs officer who smells fear and develops an attraction to a traveler whose scent she can't sense. Swedish, subtitles.

Dec. 7: **"Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale"** (Jalmari Helander, 2010). Horror-comedy about a boy and his father who must stop Joulupukki, a figure from Finnish folklore, from eating children after a multinational corporation frees him from his ancient icy prison. Finnish, subtitles. 9:30 p.m.

Dec. 8: **"Gremlins"** (Joe Dante, 1984). Comic horror-fantasy about a boy who inadvertently unleashes a horde of malevolently mischievous monsters on a small town. Midnight.

Opens Dec. 14: **"The Favourite"** (Yorgos Lanthimos, 2018). Period drama set in 18th-century England about 2 women competing for the affection of the eccentric and sickly Queen Anne. Olivia Colman, Emma Stone, Rachel Weisz.

Dec. 14: **"Love Actually"** (Richard Curtis, 2003). Rom-com about half a dozen couples in love, highlighted by a wizened, boorish rock star. Alan Rickman, Bill Nighy, Colin Firth, Emma Thompson, Hugh Grant, Liam Neeson. 9:30 p.m.

Opens Dec. 21: **"Mary Queen of Scots"** (Josie Rourke, 2018). Biopic about Mary, Queen of Scots starring Saoirse Ronan and Margot Robbie.

Opens Dec. 25: **"Vice"** (Adam McKay, 2018). Biopic about former Vice President Dick Cheney. Christian Bale, Amy Adams, Steve Carell.

U-M English Department Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group. FREE. Pizza. Bring drinks and snacks to share, if you wish. 764–2253. 1180 U-M Duderstadt Center, 2281 Bonisteel at Murfin, North Campus. 7 p.m.

Dec. 11: **"Forbidden Planet"** (Fred M. Wilcox, 1956). Reimagining of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* set in space. Followed by discussion.

Scrabble: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Tues., except Dec. 25.* All ages invited to play this popular word game. Lunch available for $5.50 (age 60 & over, $3) from 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.; reservations required. *10 a.m.–noon, Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $2 (members, free). 794–6250.*

★Adults Tuesday: Jewish Community Center. *Every Tues. except Dec. 25.* Activities begin at 11 a.m. with **"Energy Exercise"** ($3), a 60-minute workout led by Maria Farquhar. Also, at 1 p.m., **mah-jongg, quilting,** and other games & activities. Homemade buffet luncheon ($3) available at noon. All invited. *11 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free (except as noted). 971–0990.*

★Noon Lecture Series: U-M Center for Chinese Studies. *Dec. 4 & 11.* Talks by U-M and visiting scholars. Sandwiches, cookies, & coffee served. *Dec. 4:* OSU Chinese professor Patricia Sieber on **"Now We See It, Now We Don't: How to Theorize Traditional Chinese Song-Drama."** *Dec. 11:* Emory University (Atlanta) sociology professor Bin Xu on **"Chairman Mao's Children and China's Difficult Past: Generation, Class, and Memory."** *Noon–1 p.m., 110 Weiser Hall, 500 Church. Free. 764–6308.*

★Strings Showcase: U-M School of Music. Top string students perform solo and ensemble chamber works. *3 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits. Free. 615–3204.*

★"Mahan, Baekje, and the Rise of States in South Korea": U-M Nam Center for Korean Studies. U-M Korea Foundation postdoc fellow Rory Walsh discusses her research on the pottery of 7th-century Korean states. *4:30 p.m., 120 Weiser Hall, 500 Church. Free. 764–1825.*

★Elizabeth Alexander: U-M English Department Zell Visiting Writers Series. *See review, p. 67.* Reading by this acclaimed poet who read her "Praise Song for the Day" at President Obama's 2009 inauguration. Her most recent book, *The Light of the World,* is a memoir about her husband's death. Alexander also gives a **lecture** Dec. 6 at 5:30 p.m. in the UMMA Auditorium. *5:30 p.m., UMMA Apse, 525 S. State. Free. 764–6330.*

★"Knit Happens": Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch. *Every Tues., except Dec. 25.* All knitters invited to work on their projects and swap knitting tips. *6–9 p.m., call for location. Free, $2 monthly dues. meetup.com/ann-arbor-StitchNBitch/,945–3035.*

★"Tuesday Night Dinner Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Tues. except Dec. 25.* Slow/moderate-paced ride on the B2B trail, 10–20 miles, to an Ann Arbor or Ypsilanti restaurant determined by the group. Front & back lights required; reflective clothing strongly suggested. If snowy or icy, the start is moved to Gallup Park, 3000 Fuller. *6:30 p.m., meet at Wheels in Motion, 3401 Washtenaw. Free. 678–8297.*

★"Grief 101": Ann Arbor District Library. Arbor Hospice representatives offer advice for coping with the loss of a loved one. *7 p.m., AADL Pittsfield. Free; registration requested. 794–5177.*

English Country Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. *Dec. 4, 11, & 18.* Historical and traditional English dancing to live music. All dances taught. No partner or experience needed. Bring flat, nonslip shoes (running shoes OK). First-timers are asked to arrive at 6:45 p.m. *7–9:30 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. (park on Burbank). $8 (students, $4; kids age 13 & under with a parent, free). 665–7704.*

Eastside Weekly Euchre Tournament. *Every Tues., except Dec. 25.* Open to all age 18 & over. No partner needed. Cash prizes for 1st–3rd places. *7 p.m., Banfield's Bar & Grill, 3140 Packard. $5. kari.thurman@gmail.com*

★"Elephant Trumpets": Ann Arbor District Library. All ages invited to make and take home a tube instrument similar to a didgeridoo. *7–8 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. 327–4200.*

"Ann Arbor Community Sing": Ann Arbor Senior Center. All invited to join this monthly gathering to sing songs from the various branches of American folk music. *7–8:30 p.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $5. 794–6250.*

★Voices in Harmony Sweet Adelines. *Every Tues., except Dec. 25.* Women invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local 50-member a cappella barbershop harmony chorus. *7–9:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($26 monthly dues for those who join). 612–7580.*

★Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. *Every Tues., except Dec. 25.* Male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *7 p.m., Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors (annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance: 796–7467.*

★"Steinway History, Our History: Why It Matters and What to Do About It": U-M School of Music Musicology Lecture Series. Talk by Laurence Libin, Metropolitan Museum of Art musical instruments curator emeritus. *7 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Watkins Lecture Hall, 1100 Baits. Free. 615–3204.*

★"Hanukkah with Ann Epstein": Jewish Community Center. This award-winning local writer reads from and discusses ***Tazia and Gemma,*** her new novel that spans 1911–1961, moving forward in time with the story of an unwed pregnant Italian immigrant and then backward with the story of her daughter's search for her father. Writer Deepak Singh calls it a "moving story of racial and religious conflicts." Followed by a menorah lighting and *sufganiyot* (doughnuts). *7–8:30 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. Free. Preregistration required. 971–0990.*

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UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

★**"Spice: The Variety of Life": People's Food Co-op.** Talk by PFC head baker Keegan Rodgers. *7–8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. 994–4589.*

★**Spanish Readers Group: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of ***La Fruta del Borrachero,*** Ingrid Rojas Contreras's novel about a 7-year-old girl living in Bogotá during the drug violence of the 1990s. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

The Moth StorySLAM: Michigan Radio. *Dec. 4 & 18.* Open mike storytelling competition sponsored by The Moth, the NYC-based nonprofit storytelling organization that also produces a weekly public radio show. Each month 10 storytellers are selected at random from among those who sign up to tell a 3–5 minute story on themes of **"Roads"** (Dec. 4) & **"Joy"** (Dec. 18). The 3-person judging teams are recruited from the audience. Monthly winners compete in a semiannual GrandSLAM. Seating limited, so it's smart to arrive early. *7:30–9 p.m. (doors open and sign-up begins at 6 p.m.), Greyline, 100 N. Ashley. General admission tickets $10 in advance only at themoth.org beginning a week before each event. 764–5118.*

★**Ann Arbor Camera Club.** Club members show their digital images and prints on various topics, including this month's topic, **"In the Style of ..."** *7:30 p.m., Forsythe Middle School media center, 1655 Newport. Free. 327–4781.*

★**"Returning to the Spiritual Through 21st-Century Science": Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America.** Waldorf Institute of Southeast Michigan board president Judie Erb, a biochemist, discusses how recent discoveries blur barriers between science and spirituality. Erb also performs her songs to inspire contemplation. *7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free. 678–5497, (517) 927–3696.*

★**German Conversation.** *Every Tues. & Thurs.* All German speakers, native or non-native, invited for conversation with either or both of 2 long-running groups, the German Speakers Round Table (Tues.) and the Stammtisch (Thurs.). *8–10 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 453–2394 (Tues.) & 678–1017 (Thurs.).*

★**"Mad about Chamber Music": Kerrytown Concert House.** U-M piano students perform Mozart's Piano Quartet in G minor, Mendelssohn's Piano Trio in C minor, and Brahms' Trio for Clarinet, Cello, and Piano. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free; donations accepted. kerrytownconcerthouse.com, 769–2999.*

"Hope in Darkness": U-M School of Music. The U-M **University Choir, Chamber Choir,** and **Baroque Chamber Orchestra**—all ensembles of primarily music majors—perform Rheinberger's "Abendlied," Powell's "To Sit and Dream," "Elder's *Three Themes of Life and Love,* Hagenberg's "The Music of Stillness," Schütz's "Selig sind die Toten," Parry's "My Soul, There Is a Country," Theofanidis's *Four Levertov Settings,* the world premiere of Austin-based composer Craig Hella Johnson's "Song from the Road," and Bach's "Fürchte dich nicht" and "Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen." Preceded at 7:15 p.m. in the lower lobby by a lecture by U-M conducting grad student Jabarie Glass on the program. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615–3204.*

Melissa Etheridge: Live Nation. This veteran acoustic rock troubadour's gravelly voice and punchy, heartfelt songs about love's intertwined pleasures and pains have inspired frequent comparisons to Janis Joplin. Her passionate and rambunctious stage persona—she comes off as something of a female John Mellencamp—has made her the darling of audiences around the world for nearly 3 decades. Her latest tour commemorates the 25th anniversary of her career-defining album, *Yes I Am,* which contains some of her biggest hits, including "Come to My Window" and "I'm the Only One." *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $35–$55 in advance at ticketmaster.com & all Ticketmaster outlets, & at the door. (800) 745–3000.*

Opera on Tap. Local singers perform arias and art songs that address the theme **"Deck the Halls with Songs of Divas."** *8:30–10 p.m. (seating begins at 6:30 p.m.), Sidetrack Bar & Grill, 56 E. Cross, Ypsilanti. Free, but donations accepted (buy your own food). Reservations required (call between 10 a.m. & 8 p.m.). 483–5230.*

Tango Tuesdays: Sophia & El Kronox. *Every Tues., except Dec. 25.* Tango dancing to recorded music. No partner or experience necessary. Preceded at 9:30 p.m. by a lesson ($10). *10:30–11:30 p.m., Phoenix Center, 220 S. Main. $5 (free with lesson). sophiatango.com, 634–9629.*

5 WEDNESDAY

★**"Class, Culture, and the 'Gastarbeiters': Contested Meanings of Labor Migration in Socialist Yugoslavia": U-M Center for Russian, East European, & Eurasian Studies Noon Lecture.** Talk by University of Regensburg (Germany) Eastern European history professor Ulf Brunnbauer. Bring a bag lunch, if you like. *Noon–1:30 p.m., 1010 Weiser Hall, 500 Church. Free. 764–0351.*

★**"Renzong's Reign: A Time for Music and Culture in Northern Song China": U-M Confucius Institute.** Shanghai Conservatory of Music professor Weiping Zhao discusses the vibrant, diverse Song Dynasty music culture from 1022 to 1063. *Noon–1 p.m., Michigan League Koessler Rm. Free. 764–8888.*

★**Brown Bag Organ Recital: U-M School of Music.** Performance by the **U-M Baroque Chamber Ensemble.** *12:15 p.m., U-M School of Public Health Community Room, 109 S. Observatory. Free. 615–3204.*

★**"Board Game Fun": Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Wed.* All invited to play board games from the Senior Center's collection. *12:30–3 p.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 794–6250.*

★**Chess: U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.** *Every Wed., except Dec. 26.* All seniors invited to play chess. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★**"Washi Tape Picture Frames": Ann Arbor District Library.** All grade 3-adult invited to decorate picture frames with colorful patterned tape. *2–3 p.m., AADL Traverwood. Free. 327–4200.*

★**Undergraduate Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music.** U-M voice students perform art songs in styles ranging from Classical to Romantic to contemporary. *2:45 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. McIntosh Theatre, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

★**"Robo Sapiens Japanicus: Robots, Gender, Family, and the Japanese Nation": U-M Science, Technology, and Society Program.** U-M anthropology professor Jennifer Robertson reads from her new book about how Japanese robots reinforce conventional gender stereotypes and the political status quo. Panel discussion follows with U-M professors Joy Rohde (history) and Alexandra Stern (American culture). *3–4:30 p.m., 2239 Lane Hall, 204 S. State. Free. 763–2066.*

"Diva Royale": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 p.m.

★**"Transformations of Ovid in Late Antiquity": U-M Author's Forum.** U-M classical studies professor **Ian Fielding** and U-M French professor Peggy McCracken discuss Fielding's book examining the importance of Ovid's poetry of exile to the Latin poets writing in the social upheaval of the 4th-6th centuries, as the Roman Empire gradually collapsed. *5:30 p.m., 100 U-M Hatcher Grad Library Gallery, enter from the Diag. Free. 763–8994.*

★**Letterpress Lab: Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Wed., except Dec. 26.* All invited to learn the basics of letterpress printing using vintage handset type. The program begins with a safety & equipment orientation. *6 p.m. sharp, AADL Downtown Secret Lab. Free. 327–4200.*

"What Is a Bitcoin Worth?": Ann Arbor City Club. Talk by U-M complex systems professor Lynette Shaw. Dinner. *6–7:30 p.m., City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. $33 (members, $28). Reservations required by Nov. 30. annarborcityclub.org; 662–3279, ext. 1.*

Louise Penny: Literati Bookstore. This immensely popular Montreal mystery writer reads from ***Kingdom of the Blind,*** the latest in her detective Gamache series. Recently suspended from his job, Gamache looks into the personal mystery of a woman he's never met who named him as executor of her will. Meanwhile, drugs he let slip through his hands while investigating a cartel have made their way to Montreal, and he takes increasingly desperate measures to retrieve them. *6 p.m., EMU Pease Auditorium, 494 College Pl., Ypsilanti. Tickets $30.73 (includes a copy of the book) in advance at literatibookstore.com. 585–5567.*

★**Kerrytown Crafters.** *Every Wed., except Dec. 26.* All crocheters, knitters, cross-stitchers, hand quilters, and other crafters invited to work on their projects. Questions welcome, help available. *6:30–8:30 p.m. or so, Sweetwaters in Kerrytown, 407 N. Fifth Ave. Free. Facebook.com/groups/KTCrafters, 926–8863.*

★**"Woven Star": Ann Arbor District Library.** All grade 6–adult invited to make a star-shaped Christmas ornament. *7–8 p.m., AADL Pittsfield. Free. 327–4200.*

Ann Arbor Bridge Club. *Every Wed.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early. *7–11 p.m., Walden Hills clubhouse, 2114 Pauline east of Maple. (Park in the designated spaces in the lot on the north side of Pauline.) $6 per person. 623–8050.*

Euchre Tournament: The Session Room. All invited to bring a partner to play euchre. Prizes from Founders Brewing Company. *7–10 p.m., The Session*

Charles Lloyd & Lucinda Williams

Poetic stylings

For more than six decades, saxophonist and flutist Charles Lloyd has been investigating wide ranges of music from America and beyond. With deep roots in Memphis, he moved to Los Angeles to study classical music but ended up encountering some of the most radical players in jazz, eventually replacing Eric Dolphy in the innovative Chico Hamilton Quintet and then moving on to play with the more conservative Cannonball Adderley Sextet.

In 1965, Lloyd formed his own quartet, which included a young pianist named Keith Jarrett. This group gained international attention with the release of a concert recording, *Forest Flower,* which sold over a million copies and gave him exposure beyond his jazz audience. It led to a tour of Europe that included concerts in Warsaw, Prague, and Moscow at a time when American musicians were rarely able to directly reach audiences behind the Iron Curtain.

I first heard this quartet as a teenager in Warsaw and still recall the group's unique sound, seamlessly blending standard modern jazz with elements taken from Ornette Coleman and other more avant-garde contemporaries and from West Coast psychedelic rockers. Lloyd's playing combined modern jazz harmonic sophistication with a folk-like melodic purity and a big sound that recalled tenor masters of the swing era.

His broad appeal and musical adventurousness allowed him to perform before large audiences in venues that usually did not book jazz acts and alongside groups such as Jefferson Airplane, the Doors, and the Grateful Dead. But despite much success and critical acclaim, the quartet soon broke up, and Lloyd withdrew from the jazz scene, moving to Big Sur on the Pacific Coast, where he became associated with visual artists and poets of the Beat generation. After two decades he began to perform regularly again and has been active ever since.

Charles Lloyd's latest project combines his new group, the Marvels, with the voice of the equally unclassifiable Louisiana-born singer and songwriter Lucinda Williams. Williams writes songs that seem like country music drenched in the blues, with tense, hard-nosed, complex poetic lyrics; someone described her as Raymond Carver with a guitar. Lloyd and Williams are well-matched southern-born eccentrics who cherish originality and live in a world of poetry—Williams inherited this from her poet father and Lloyd from his life at Big Sur, where Lawrence Ferlinghetti had a cabin. After all these years, Lloyd's saxophone sound has become even fuller, infused with a deep burnished sheen, and his lyrical melodic sense complements Williams' gruff bluesy singing. UMS brings them to the Michigan Theater on December 8.

—Piotr Michalowski

Room, 3685 Jackson. Free admission. Preregistration required at tinyurl.com/ydglc34m. 585–7300.

★"Speak Truth to Power: The Role of Journalism": The Michigan Daily (Ann Arbor District Library). Panel discussion with local journalists TBA addressing the role of journalists in maintaining transparency and accountability in local government and institutions. Moderator: *Michigan Daily* editor-in-chief Alexa St. John. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown multipurpose rm. Free. 327–4200.*

★"Ypsi Storytelling Night": Concentrate/On the Ground Ypsilanti. Live storytelling about Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Twp. by Cherisa Allen, Keith Jason, Alice Kepchar, Dyann Logwood, Yodit Mesfin-Johnson, Heather Neff, Robin Newell, Caroline Sanders, and Muddasar Tawakkul. *7 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Free. feedback@concentratemedia.com*

Scott Cook & Jon Brooks: On the Tracks Singer-Songwriter Showcase. Double bill. Alberta-based Cook, a self-described "prairie balladeer," has "a good eye for imagery, a gentle human touch, a wry sense of humour, a whole lot of integrity, a warm, rugged voice and a bunch of memorable lines," notes *RnR Magazine* (UK). His latest album is *Further Down the Line.* Ontario-based Brooks is "a combination of George Carlin and Leonard Cohen," notes *King Weekly Sentinel.* His latest album, *No One Travels Alone,* tackles life's deep questions using an adaptation of the type of sonnet sequence known as a "corona," where the last line of each song is the first line of the next. *7–9 p.m., Chelsea Depot, 125 Jackson, Chelsea. $15 suggested donation. Info: call Annie Capps at 330–5226.*

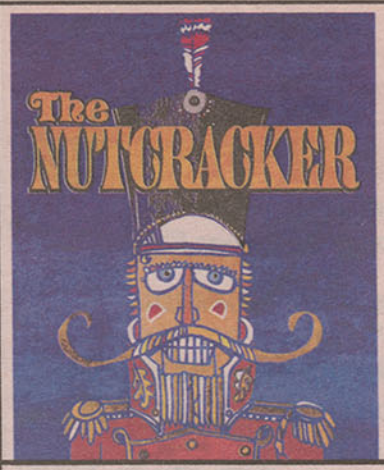
★Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club. All invited to check out the trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. *7:30–10 p.m., Michigan Central depot, 3487 Broad, Dexter. Free. 426–5100.*

★History of Books & Printing Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. All invited to join a discussion of ***The Diary of a Bookseller,*** Shaun Bythell's wry 2017 memoir about his experience owning Scotland's biggest 2nd-hand bookstore. *7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669–0451.*

★"Introduction to Steiner's Thought": Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America. *Every Wed.* All invited to join a discussion of Steiner's 1904 introduction to anthroposophy, *How to Know Higher Worlds. 7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free. 678–5497.*

Israeli Dancing: Jewish Community Center. *Every Wed., except Dec. 26.* Dance instructor Cheryl Felt and DJ Amnon Steiner lead a variety of Israeli dances to recorded music. Easy dances and oldies the first hour, followed by intermediate dances and requests. Beginners welcome. New dances taught each week. Wear soft-soled shoes. *7:30–9:30 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $5 (students, free). 971–0990.*

★Graduate Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music. U-M grad voice students present staged arias and scenes from Mozart's *Cosi Fan Tutte* and *Don Giovanni,* Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia,* Puccini's *La Bohème,* and Bellini's *Norma. 7:30 p.m.,*



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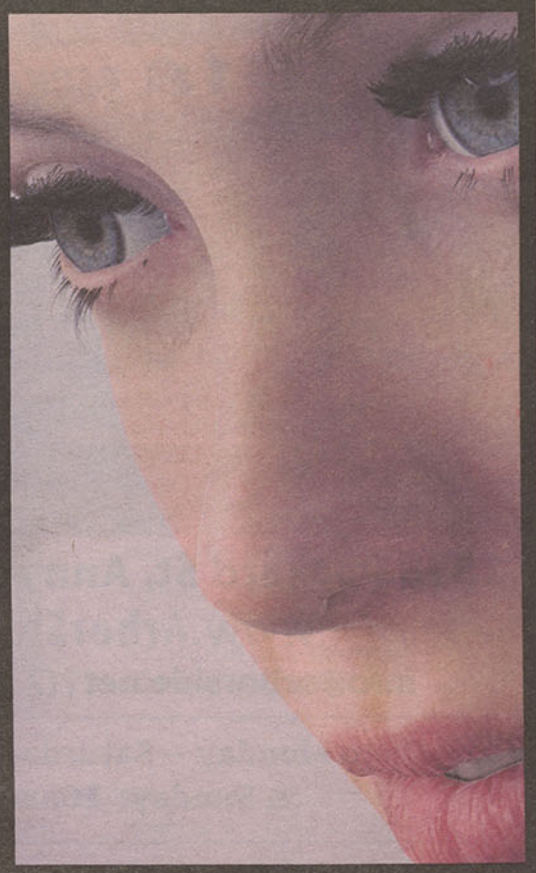
Art in the Age of the Internet, 1989 to Today

Examine the radical impact of internet culture on visual art since the invention of the web in 1989 with more than forty works across a variety of media



Kate Cooper, *Rigged* (still), 2014–15. Installation with digital prints and HD videos (color, sound; 4:28 minutes). Courtesy the artist. © Kate Cooper

Exhibition Opens December 15

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U-M Moore Bldg. McIntosh Theatre, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.

★**Concert Band: U-M School of Music.** Courtney Snyder conducts this ensemble of music majors in Shostakovich's *Festive Overture,* Jolley's *The Eyes of the World Are Upon You,* Hindemith's Symphony in B-flat Major, Gorb's *French Dances Revisited,* Scriabin's Nocturne no. 2, and Turrin's Fandango. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615–3204.*

★**Viola Studio Recital: U-M School of Music.** Performances by students of U-M viola professor Yizhak Schotten. Program TBA. *8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Hankinson Rehearsal Hall, 1100 Baits. Free. 615–3204.*

★**Campus Jazz Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** This student ensemble performs works TBA. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 615–3204.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Every Wed.* Performances by up to 12 aspiring area stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. $5 in advance and at the door. 996–9080.*

Open Dancing: Swing Ann Arbor. *Dec. 5, 12, & 19.* Swing dancing to recorded music. No partner needed. Bring casual or nicer shoes that stay on your feet when you're flying around the room. Preceded at 8 p.m. by a lesson. *9–11 p.m., Michigan League Vandenberg Rm. $5 (students, $3; $1 discount for members; free for those who attend the lesson). 945–8428.*

"Juke Box Jungle": Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Wed.* Conor O'Neill's staff member Ryan Halsey hosts a music trivia quiz. Prizes. *9–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $3 team fee. 665–2968.*

6 THURSDAY

★**Mah-Jongg: U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.** *Every Thurs., except Dec. 27.* Seniors invited to play this intricate game resembling gin rummy that uses colorful tiles. Beginners welcome. *10 a.m.–noon, Turner, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 332–1874.*

★**"Stigma and the Moral Economy of Tokyo's Sex Industry": U-M Center for Japanese Studies.** Lecture by Yale-NUS College (Singapore) anthropology professor Gabriele Koch. *Noon–1:30 p.m., 110 Weiser Hall, 500 Church. Free. 764–6307.*

★**Gifts of Art Concert Series: U-M Hospitals.** *Dec. 6, 13, & 20.* Performances by area musicians. *Dec. 6:* Violin students from the **Ann Arbor Suzuki Institute.** *Dec. 13:* 19th-century holiday music by the **Dodworth Duo.** *Dec. 20:* Seasonal works by the **Counterpoint** quintet. *12:10–1 p.m., U-M Hospital Main Lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. Free. 936–ARTS.*

★**"Dancing at Christmas": First Baptist Church Coffee Break Concert Series.** *Different location.* First Baptist organist Shin-Ae Chun performs Josef Rheinberger's Organ Sonata No. 3 and Naji Hakim's *To Call My True Love to My Dance,* an exploration of the traditional Danish song "Will You Dance with Me?" in several classical styles. *12:15 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 663–9376.*

★**"Automating Inequality: How High-Tech Tools Profile, Police, and Punish the Poor": U-M Ford School of Public Policy.** SUNY Albany political science professor Virginia Eubanks reads from her new book. Reception follows. *4–5:30 p.m., Weill Hall Annenberg Auditorium, 735 S. State. Free. 764–3490.*

★**Board Game Night: The Loaded Die.** *Every Thurs.* All invited to play popular board games (list available at theloadeddie.com). "Board Game Guru" on hand to answer questions. Raffle. *5–9 p.m., Bløm Meadworks, 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free (buy your own food & drink). facebook.com/drinkblom*

★**"Family and Community": Ann Arbor District Library.** Screening of the 2001 PBS documentary *My American Girls,* which chronicles a year in the life of an immigrant family from the Dominican Republic. Followed by discussion led by U-M history professor Jesse Hoffnung-Garskof. *6–8:30 p.m. AADL Downtown multipurpose rm. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Miniatures Painting Workshop": Ann Arbor District Library.** All grade 9–adult invited to learn how to paint miniatures figures for games and hobbies. Materials provided. *6:30–8:30 p.m. AADL Downtown Secret Lab. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"I Am Jazz": Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health.** Local resident Carolyn Herrmann, mom of a trans teen, reads Shelagh McNicholas, Jazz Jennings, and Jessica Herthel's 2014 picture book based on Jennings' experience as a transgender child. Followed by discussion and Q&A with Carolyn and her son. All ages welcome. *6:30–8 p.m., Bookbound, 1729 Plymouth. Free. 369–4345.*

★**"Mini Yarn Hat Ornaments": Ann Arbor District Library.** Craft project for all grade 6–adult. *7–8 p.m. AADL Traverwood. Free. 327–4200.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Long Island. There are also games this month against **Morgan State** (Dec. 15, 11 a.m.), **Southern** (Dec. 21, noon) and **Minnesota** (Dec. 31, 2 p.m.). *7 p.m., Crisler Center. $6 & $8. 764–0247.*

★**Annual Show-and-Tell & Holiday Party: Huron Hills Lapidary & Mineral Society.** All invited to bring rocks, minerals, or jewelry to show off. Refreshments. *7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church social hall, 900 S. Seventh St. Free. 665–5574.*

★**Lisa Ludwinski: Literati Bookstore.** This Sister Pie (Detroit) owner and head baker discusses ***Sister Pie: The Recipes and Stories of a Big-Hearted Bakery in Detroit,*** her new cookbook that includes such Sister Pie favorites as toasted marshmallow butterscotch pie and sour cherry bourbon pie. Signing. *7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585–5567.*

"Antony and Cleopatra": Fathom Events. Tape delayed live broadcast of the **National Theatre** (London) production of Shakespeare's tragedy about Cleopatra and Mark Antony's epic love affair. Following the murder of Julius Caesar, Antony rules Rome in a triumvirate that includes Octavius Caesar. Antony's neglect of his political duties for Cleopatra leads to a disastrous war with Octavius and the defiant lovers' double suicide. Stars Ralph Fiennes. *7 p.m., Quality 16 (3686 Jackson), Ann Arbor 20 (4100 Carpenter), Emagine (1335 E. Michigan Ave., Saline). Tickets $17 & $18 in advance at fathomevents.com/events. 623–7469 (Quality 16), 973–8424 (Ann Arbor 20), 316–5500 (Emagine).*

"For the Record": Runyonland Productions. *Dec. 6 & 7.* Sold out. *7 p.m., U-M Duderstadt Center Video Studio, 2281 Bonisteel. Runyonland.ticketleap.com*

★**Comhaltas.** *Every Thurs.* All invited to join members of this local chapter of the Detroit Irish Music Association for an informal evening playing traditional Irish music on various instruments. Lessons offered. *7:30–9:30 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. Free. facebook.com/DetroitIMA*

★**Michèle Renoul: U-M School of Music.** This Conservatoire de Strasbourg piano professor performs works by Debussy, Rameau, Grieg, Liszt, Chopin, Dusapin, Messiaen, and Stravinsky. *7:30 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits. Free. 615–3204.*

The Beach Boys: Live Nation. Known for their quintessential shimmering layered vocal harmonies and intricate, inventively comforting arrangements, this iconic pop band pioneered surf rock more than 50 years ago. Its holiday-themed program includes such classics as "O Holy Night," "O Come All Ye Faithful, and "Away in a Manger," as well as a new version of its classic "Little St. Nick" from their new album, *Reason for the Season.* With all the surviving band members except Brian Wilson. *7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $65–$99.50 in advance at ticketmaster.com & all Ticketmaster outlets, & at the door. (800) 745–3000.*

Shadow League Show: Pointless Brewery & Theatre. *Every Thurs., except Dec. 27.* Improv by up-and-coming local troupes, including This Is A Quiz, a group that may or may not incorporate a quiz into its show. *7:30 p.m., Pointless, 3014 Packard. Tickets $8. info@pointlessbrew.com, (989) 455–4484.*

★**Winter Concert: Concordia University Wind and String Ensemble.** This student ensemble performs a program highlighted by the Michigan premiere of James Syler's settings of 3 Whitman poems, *Silent Shadows to the Last,* with soprano soloist (and Concordia voice professor) **Natalie Downs.** Also, Mozart's Symphony no. 25 in G minor, Dvorak's Serenade in D minor, and Holst's First Suite in E-flat Major. *8 p.m., Concordia University Kreft Center Black Box Theater, 4090 Geddes. Free. 995–7438.*

★**Baroque Chamber Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Joseph Gascho and Aaron Berofsky direct this ensemble of music majors in Bach's *Jauchzet Gott,* Scarlatti's Concerti Grossi, and Charles Avison's *Domenico Scarlatti.* With trumpeter **Bill Campbell** and soprano **Carmen Pelton,** both U-M music professors. *8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. McIntosh Theatre, 1100 Baits. Free. 615–3204.*

★**Jazz Lab Ensemble & Jazz Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** U-M music professors Ellen Rowe and Dennis Wilson and Montreal-based composer Christine Jensen direct music students in Jensen's new suite and other works TBA. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 615–3204.*

"Twelfth Night": U-M Theatre Department. *Dec. 6–9.* Daniel Cantor directs U-M theater students in Shakespeare's comedy of mistaken identities and misplaced affections. Viola, a noblewoman shipwrecked on the coast of the mythical kingdom of Ilyria, disguises herself as a man and finds work as a servant to Duke Orsino, with whom she promptly falls in love. But when the duke sends his new servant to court a young widow on his behalf, the widow becomes enamored of Viola. After several additional gender-bending plot twists, and the introduction of a frisky Puritan, an outrageous drunkard, and a slow-witted squire, everyone eventually snaps back into place, but with a variety of delightful and surprising differences. *7:30 p.m. (Thurs.), 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Power Center. Tickets $24–$30 (students, $12) at the Michigan League Box Office in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538.*

"Hello Dolly!": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 7:30 p.m.

Larry Fuller Trio: Kerrytown Concert House. Swinging mainstream jazz by a trio led by Fuller, a local pianist praised by a *Seattle Times* critic for his "muscular, tinkling, harmonically advanced" music. With Cambridge (OH) bassist **George DeLancey** and NYC drummer **Jason Tiemann.** *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $15–$30 (students, $10) in advance at a2tix.com/events/12-6-2018-Larry-Fuller. Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"all our pasts tomorrow": U-M Dance Department B.F.A. Dance Concert. *Dec. 6–8.* Senior U-M dance majors Sophia Allen, Cailin Ferguson, Madeline Joss, and Johnny Mathews present their choreography, including solo and group works. *8 p.m., U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. $7 at the door only. 763–5460.*

"The Grand Duke, or the Statutory Duel": U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society. *Dec. 6–9.* David Andrews and Eric Lofstrom direct this accomplished local town-and-gown company in Gilbert and Sullivan's nonsensical satire about a penny-pinching grand duke who is reluctant to marry his betrothed, a wealthy but intimidating baroness, because he thinks she's only after his money. Ludwig, the local theater troupe leader, persuades the grand duke to wriggle out of the marriage by giving up his throne for a day, but he then seizes power for himself. The coup backfires when the troupe's prima donna invokes a clause in her contract that would require Ludwig to marry her, instead of the woman he loves. It's a lively show, very tuneful and full of witty banter. Cast: Jack Nadler, Alexandra Kzeski, Christopher Kendall, Laurel Baker, Lori Gould, and Natan Zamansky. *8 p.m. (Thurs.-Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. Tickets $22 & $25 (students, $10 & $12; seniors, $20 & $22) in advance at brownpapertickets.com/event/3432508 and at the door. umgassexec@umich.edu*

"Diva Royale": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Sean Kent: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 6–8.* This Texas stand-up comic, a 2-time contestant on the NBC show *Last Comic Standing,* is known for his incisive, edgy sociopolitical comedy. His CD *Waiting for the Rapture* is in heavy rotation on satellite radio. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m. (Thurs.-Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. $9 (Thurs.) & $13 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $11 (Thurs.) & $15 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

7 FRIDAY

★"Creative Break": Ann Arbor District Library. *Every Fri. except Dec. 28.* All invited to bring a lunch and participate in a directed craft activity. *Dec. 7:* **"Splatter Paint Art."** *Dec. 14:* **"Word Collage."** *Dec. 21:* **"Snowy Trees."** *Noon–1 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab. Free. 327–4200.*

★"Lunch & Learn": Temple Beth Emeth. *Every Fri.* TBE rabbi Josh Whinston leads informal discussions on religion. Bring a bag lunch, if you wish. *Noon, TBE Adult Lounge, 2309 Packard. Free. 665–4744.*

★"Museums as Sites of Healing: Empathy, Repair, and Critical Reflection": U-M Museum Studies Program. Talk by MSU Museum director Mark Auslander. *Noon, UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 936–6678.*

★"Drink & Draw/Imbibe & Inscribe": Pointless Brewery & Theatre. *Dec. 7, 14, & 21.* All invited to draw or write. Supplies and writing and drawing prompts provided. *4–7 p.m., Pointless, 3014 Packard. Free admission (buy your own beer). info@pointlessbrew.com, (989) 455–4484.*

★"Digital Tamil Cinema: Tendencies, Trends, and Possibilities": U-M Center for South Asian Studies. Lecture by MSU English professor Swarnavel Eswaran Pillai. *4–5:30 p.m., 110 Weiser Hall, 500 Church. Free. 615–4095.*

Annual Holiday Show & Sale: Yourist Studio Gallery. *Dec. 7–9.* 18th annual show and sale of works by local ceramics artists. Tonight: artists' reception. Refreshments. *5–8 p.m. (Fri.), 10 a.m.–6 p.m. (Sat.) & 10 a.m.–5 p.m. (Sun.), Yourist Studio Gallery, 1133 Broadway. Free admission. 662–4914.*

"Festive Friday": The Creature Conservancy. *Nov. 30 and Dec., 7, 14, & 21.* Conservancy staffers show off **Sven the reindeer** and some of their larger animals. Also, a chance to view their other animals, such as porcupines, sloths, and more. Cookies & hot cocoa. *6–8 p.m., Creature Conservancy, 4950 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $15 and a donation towards animal care (grain-free cat and dog food, pet-safe squeaky toys, femur bones, & macaw toys welcome). 929–9324.*

★"Group Poster Coloring": Ann Arbor District Library. Group coloring activity for all grade 6–adult. Participants can choose from several poster-sized prints from the original illustrations from ***Alice in Wonderland.*** *6:30–8:30 p.m. AADL Westgate. Free. 327–4200.*

First Friday Shabbat: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society. All invited for dinner, preceded by a brief Shabbat observance with songs, candle lighting, wine, and challah. Children welcome. *6:30–9 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. $10 (family, $25). Reservations required at jewishculturalsociety.org. 975–9872.*

"Cider & Cheese": Zingerman's Creamery. Zingerman's staffers discuss and offer samples of artisan cheeses paired with hard ciders. Bread and additional accompaniments. *6:30–8:30 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. $45. Reservations required. 929–0500.*

★"National Letter Writing Day Party": Ann Arbor District Library. All grade 6–adult invited to write letters. Stationery, envelopes, pens, markers, & stickers provided. *7–8 p.m. AADL Downtown Secret Lab. Free. 327–4200.*

★"DIY Holiday Ornaments": Ann Arbor District Library. Family-friendly activity making ornaments using a variety of provided craft products. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown multipurpose rm. Free. 327–4200.*

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. *7–9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. $5 requested donation. 663–2037.*

★"An Organist's Christmas": American Guild of Organists. A festive program of Christmas music, including a sing-along of favorite carols and solo performances on the church's impressive pipe organ by local organists **David Saunders, Sarah Simko,** and **Sipkje Price.** Reception follows. *7 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. 994–4455.*

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. *Dec. 7 & 8.* Music director John Boonenberg leads this local ensemble of boys ages 8–18 in its 32nd annual Christmas concert, accompanied by First United Methodist Church organist Naki Sung-Kripfgans. The program opens with the traditional processional "Once in Royal David's City," with the 1st verse sung by a solo boy, and concludes with John Gardner's "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day." The program ranges from Paul Mealor's jubilant setting of the Magnificat to a reimagining of "In the Bleak Midwinter" by Abbie Betinis, the grand-niece of famed Christmas carol composer Alfred Burt. Also, Alfred Burt's "Nigh Bethlehem," Dutch Renaissance composer Jan Sweelinck's "Hodie Christus Natus Est," 20th-century German composer Max Reger's setting of "Mary's Lullaby," Rachmaninoff's "Bogoroditse Devo," and two pieces by young contemporary composers: David von Kampen's "The Shepherd's Hymn" and Jacob Weber's "Arise, Shine!" Audience sing-alongs of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" and "O Come, All Ye Faithful" are kicked off with a soaring Boychoir descant verse. This concert usually sells out. *7 p.m. (Fri.), Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart, & 3 p.m. (Sat.), First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor, 1432 Washtenaw. Tickets $20 (students & seniors, $15; youths 17 & under, free) in advance at aaboychoir.org/reserve.html and eventbrite.com, and at the door. 663–5377.*

Funky Frosty Friday: Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. All invited to skate to recorded music by The Reverend Horton Heat, the acclaimed postpunk rockabilly trio from Texas. Prizes for best costume. *7:15–8:45 p.m., Buhr Park Ice Rink, 2751 Packard. $6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $5). $1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available ($3). 794–6234.*

★Jazz Band Concert: Huron High School. Program TBA. *7:30 p.m., HHS, 2727 Fuller. Free. 994–2040.*

"Swan Lake": EMU Dance Program. EMU dance students perform Tchaikovsky's beloved tragic ballet about a prince who falls in love with the swan-maiden Odette. Live score by the **EMU Symphony Orchestra.** *7:30 p.m., Pease Auditorium, W. Cross at College Place, EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Tickets $10 (seniors & students, $8; children under 12, $6) in advance at emutix.com and at the door. 487–2282.*

"Hello Dolly!": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 7:30 p.m.

"The Elves and the Schumachers": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 7:30 p.m.

★String Quartets Final Term Recital: U-M School of Music. *Dec. 7 & 8.* Ensembles of music majors perform selections from masterpieces of the quartet repertoire. *8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits. Free. 615–3204.*

Don White: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). This veteran singer-songwriter from Lynn (MA), a Green Wood favorite, writes sharp-witted songs about everyday life that blend pathos, humor, and biting satire, and his live shows feature a lot of impromptu storytelling and comedy. His fans include Christine Lavin and Livingston Taylor, and he's released 4 acclaimed CDs, including the recent *Winning Streak. 8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $20 in advance and at the door. 665–8558.*

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Maria Schleuning & Jolyon Pegis: Kerrytown Concert House. This Dallas-based duo of violinist Schleuning and cellist Pegis perform Piazzolla's *Café 1930,* Kodály's Duo for Violin and Cello, and Haydn's Duet in D minor and "Poco Adagio" from his Duet for Violin & Cello in D Major. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $15–$30 (students, $10) in advance at a2tix.com/events/12–7-18-jolyon-pegisandmaria-schleuning. Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"all our pasts tomorrow": U-M Dance Department B.F.A. Dance Concert. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

One-Act Plays: Neighborhood Theatre Group. This local company performs 3 new one-acts by local playwrights. Dianne Bernick directs Brian Cox's ***A Touch Awkward,*** about a well-meaning but ineffectual man. Cast: Kristina Camaj, Nathan Corliss, Robbie Griswold, Tom Hett, and Maria Kelly. Craig VanKempen directs Dustin Mineau's ***Last Day in Paradise,*** about graduation day at a gay conversion camp. Cast: Robbie Griswold, Tom Hett, Eric Hohnke, Brittney Marie, Ezra Mitchell, Maegan Murphy, Rodney Rice, and Jan Romans. Marisa Dluge directs Greg Pizzino's ***Whatever Happened to Captain Future?,*** a mockumentary about the contradictions of a beloved, recently deceased superhero. Cast: Kristina Fitzgerald, Daniel Ghastin, Paul Popa, Eddie Rothermel, Debbie Secord, and Dinah Tutein. *8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. $5 cash suggested donation at the door only. 657–2337.*

"The Grand Duke, or the Statutory Duel": U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Diva Royale": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Twelfth Night": U-M Theatre Department. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Reindeer Games": Pointless Brewery & Theatre. *Nov. 30 and Dec. 7, 14, & 21.* The League of Pointless Improvisers presents holiday-inspired sketches based on audience suggestions. They also do "water form," Pointless's own long-form improv style. Opener: guest improv troupe TBA. *8 & 10 p.m., Pointless, 3014 Packard. Tickets $15 (8 p.m.) & $12 (10 p.m.). pointlessbrew.com, (989) 455–4484.*

Sean Kent: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 6 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Friday Night Swing": Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association/Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. *Every Fri.* Lindy hop, East Coast swing, Charleston, and Balboa dancing to music spun by DJs. No partner needed. Preceded at 8 p.m. by a free beginner lesson and occasionally followed at midnight by blues dancing. *9 p.m.–midnight, Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. $5 (students with ID, $4; $1 discount for AACTMAD members). (847) 757–0942.*

8 SATURDAY

"Washtenaw County Gulls": Washtenaw Audubon Society. WAS member Mike Sefton leads a trip (in the WAS van) to the Arbor Hills Landfill in Salem Township to look for unusual species of gulls. Dress for the weather; the landfill is usually windy. *8:30 a.m.–1 p.m., meet at the Park-n-Ride lot, Plymouth Rd. at US-23. $5 minimum donation for van rental & fuel. Space limited; preregistration required at washtenawaudubon.org.*

Huron Gun Collectors. *Dec. 8 & 9.* About 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment for sale, including antiques and collectibles. Concessions. Youth age 17 & under must be accompanied by an adult. *9 a.m.–4 p.m. (Sat.) & 9 a.m.–3 p.m. (Sun.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Admission $5 (members, $3; kids age 12 & under, free). (517) 605–0624.*

"8th Annual Friends at the Front Porch Holiday Sale": Front Porch Textile Studio. *Dec. 8 & 9.* Michigan artists and crafters show and sell handwoven textiles, fine art, prints, cards, jewelry, woodworking, metal art, and books for young children. *9 a.m.–5 p.m. (Sat.) & 11 a.m.–5 p.m. (Sun.), 1219 Traver. Free admission. 662–7134.*

Craft & Vendor Show: St. Luke Lutheran Church. Show and sale of homemade crafts and other items. *9 a.m.–2 p.m., St. Luke Lutheran Church Great Rm., 4205 Washtenaw. $1 admission (cash only). 971–0550.*

"38th Annual Winter Festival": Rudolf Steiner School. An artisan market, a toy room, puppet theater, musical performances, and kids activities, including jump rope winding and candle making. Also, several themed rooms, including the **Snow Queen's Castle,** the **Crystal Cave,** and the **Children's Gift Room.** Raffle. Lunch from Arbor Farms available. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., Rudolf Steiner School, 2775 Newport. Park at Wines Elementary School (1701 Newport) to take a shuttle. Free admission (fee for kids activities). 995–4141.*

★10th Annual Lucy Ann Lance Hometown Christmas Radio Show. Popular local radio personality Lance hosts a live broadcast of an old-fashioned radio variety show with performances by 30 local groups, including the **Dodworth Saxhorn Band,** St. Francis Catholic Church **handbell choirs,** the **Depot Town Big Band,** the Saline show choir **Varsity Blues,** the **Dexter Community Band Christmas Brass** ensemble, the **Brain Plasticity Ukulele Collective,** theater groups, and many more. The show is broadcast on 1290 WLBY and 1290WLBY.com. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., Briarwood JC Penney wing. Free. 1290WLBY.com, 717–2182.*

★"Recycled Gift-Giving & Tile Decorations": Ecology Center of Ann Arbor. All invited to learn what kinds of packaging can be recycled and how to transform everyday household items into decorative boxes, bows, and wrappings. Also, decorate a tile or ornament with glass beads, shells, and buttons. *10 a.m.–noon, Ann Arbor District Library Westgate Branch. Free. 761–3186.*

"Holiday Greens": Ann Arbor Garden Club. Club member Denise Looker shows participants how to make and keep fresh a holiday wreath, mantel design, or centerpiece. Materials provided; bring garden clippers. Bring a dish to pass for a potluck brunch. *10 a.m.–noon, U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens greenhouse 3, 1800 N. Dixboro. $20 (Garden Club members, free). Preregistration recommended to Nancy Hart at nhartgreen@aol.com. Metered parking. 761–8281.*

"Art on Adare." *Dec. 8 & 9.* A holiday show and sale of fine art jewelry by Idelle Hammond-Sass, fiber art by Carol Furtado, and ceramics by Anne Tubbs. *11 a.m.–5 p.m., 1510 Kearney at Adare. Free admission. 741–4441.*

The Tiny Expo: Ann Arbor District Library. Show and sale of holiday gifts by more than 40 local artists and crafters. Also, from 1–4 p.m. in the Secret Lab, craft activities for all ages, including screen printing and button making. *11 a.m.–5 p.m., AADL Downtown lobby. Free admission. 327–4200.*

DIYpsi Holiday Market. *Dec. 8 & 9.* Ninety area artists and crafters show and sell their paintings, jewelry, clothing, glass, soaps, baked goods, and more. *11 a.m.–7 p.m. (Sat.) & noon–6 p.m. (Sun.), Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Free admission. diypsi.com, diypsifair@gmail.com*

12th Annual Holiday Art Studios Show & Sale: Kate Tremel & Friends. *Dec. 8 & 9.* Show and sale of works by local artists, including book arts and letterpress works by Jean Buescher Bartlett, ceramics by John Leyland and Ben Teague, silk and wool by Michelle Montour, jewelry by Nancy Melet, and porcelain works by Kate Tremel. *Noon–5 p.m., Tremel residence, 627 Gott St. Free admission. 327–3727.*

★Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad: U-M Men's Gymnastics. The U-M men's gymnastics team, a perennial national power that has won 3 NCAA national championships in the past 9 years, prepares for the 2019 season with an intrasquad meet. *1 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764–0247.*

★"Ancient Wisdom and Modern Education": Ann Arbor Vedanta Symposium 2018. Daylong series of talks by Vedanta Society of New York minister **Swami Sarvapriyananda,** Vedanta Center of Greater Washington, D.C., minister **Swami Atmajnanananda,** and Albuquerque-based writer **Glenn Aparicio Parry,** author of *Original Thinking: A Radical Revisioning of Time, Humanity, and Nature. 10 a.m.–noon & 2–4 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. tewaria@umich.edu*

"The Nutcracker": Randazzo Dance Company. *Dec. 8 & 9.* Sara Randazzo directs this local company of more than 100 young dancers and guest dancers from the **Boston Ballet** in the company's 50th annual production of Tchaikovsky's perennially popular Christmas ballet. *2 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.) & 7 p.m. (Sat.), Skyline High School Auditorium, 2552 N. Maple. Tickets $10–$25 in advance at randazzodancecompany.com and at the door. Discounts available for groups of 10 or more. RDCTicketsales@gmail.com*

"Wine & Cheese": Zingerman's Creamery. *Dec. 8 & 28.* Zingerman's cheesemakers discuss and offer taste samples of wines and artisan cheeses. Bread and additional accompaniments. *3–5 p.m. (5–7 p.m. Dec. 28), Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. $45. Reservations required. 929–0500.*

★Trio Vox3Machina: U-M School of Music. This trio of U-M saxophone professor **Timothy McAllister,** Detroit Symphony Orchestra bass trombonist **Randall Hawes,** and local pianist **Kathryn Goodson** presents a program highlighted by the premiere of U-M music professor Stephen Rush's *LightRays* and Chicago composer James Stephenson's 2015 *Mahogany Moods.* Also, lush transcriptions of Bruch and works by Michigan composers David Biedenbender, Roshanne Etezady, and Carter Pann. *3 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Hankinson Rehearsal Hall, 1100 Baits. Free. 615–3204.*

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. See 7 Friday. 3 p.m.

"and … then he looked at me": Spinning Dot Theatre. *Dec. 8 & 9.* Emily Levickas and Colleen Cartwright direct local teens in L.A. playwright Jose

Joyce DiDonato

Braving Schubert's *Winter Journey*

SIMON PAULY

Classical music is not for the faint of heart. This is especially true of opera, a mind-altering art form characterized by voices that travel great distances without amplification, bigger-than-life emotional displays, contentious plot lines, simulated acts of violence, and very real occupational hazards.

In July 2009, mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato slipped and fractured her fibula half way through a performance of Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* at London's Royal Opera House. Visibly in pain but undeterred, she finished the scene leaning on a walking stick, persevered through Act II with a crutch, and went on to sing from a wheelchair for the remainder of the run, her leg encased in a pink plaster cast.

DiDonato is a marvelously expressive singer, capable of executing lyric coloratura passages of dazzling intricacy. A stellar interpreter of Handel and Mozart, she also specializes in bel canto arias by Rossini, Bellini, and Donizetti. Her theatrical stage presence can be riveting, especially in the intimate setting of a song recital. An online video shows her standing by a piano, totally immersed in the role of Desdemona during the lengthy introduction to an aria from Rossini's *Otello*. When at last she begins to sing, she is on the verge of tears.

It wasn't all that long ago that male critics were still stubbornly questioning whether a woman could or should take on material written from a male point of view. Franz Schubert's *Winter Journey,* like Gustav Mahler's *Songs of a Wayfarer,* is a psychological torrent filtered through the emotionally torqued sensibilities of a moody, heartbroken, and variably neurotic man. And since the day it was first sung by Schubert himself, *Winterreise* has most often been performed by men.

Yet as the songs proceed like errant footsteps in the snow, the listener has a growing sense of being permeated by feelings so universal that gender stipulations seem irrelevant. Schubert speaks with disarming honesty about what it's like to feel vulnerable, alienated, and increasingly disoriented while placing one foot in front of the other, facing the strange music of a frozen dawn. When Ian Bostridge took us on his *Winter Journey* at Lydia Mendelssohn Theater last December, the somber, gentle mingling of voice and piano gradually conveyed the sensation that time itself was icing over.

Since Lotte Lehmann recorded *Winter Journey* nearly eighty years ago, the cycle has been interpreted by Christa Ludwig, Brigitte Fassbaender, and Nathalie Stutzmann. The time is ripe for DiDonato to undergo her own *Winter Journey*. Exceptional virtuosity, seasoned maturity, and life experience are all in her favor. On December 16, she will appear at Hill Auditorium with pianist Yannick Nézet-Séguin for a Sunday matinee performance of Schubert's *Winterreise*.

—arwulf arwulf

Casas's new play about bullying and gun violence in a middle school. Appropriate for kids age 12 & up. Performances are followed by discussion led by Students Educating Each other about Diversity (SEED), a Neutral Zone teen group. *3 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.) & 7 p.m. (Sat.), Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington. Tickets $10 (youth, $5) in advance at a2tix.com. 585–5134.*

"Holiday Hustle": Running Fit. Competitive 5-km run/walk with awards for the top 3 finishers in various age categories. Also, a 1-mile fun run. Medals for all finishers. Knit beanies for all participants. *4 p.m., Monument Park, downtown Dexter. $34 (fun run, $29; fun run age 17 & under, $19) before Dec. 6; $40 (fun run, $35; fun run age 17 & under, $25) on race weekend. Preregistration available at runholiday5k.com. 426–1175.*

Detroit Handbell Ensemble: Zion Lutheran Church Concert Series. Brenda Austin directs the ensemble in seasonal works. *4 p.m., Zion, 1501 W. Liberty. Freewill offering. 662–1679.*

★**"Tristin Lowe: Under the Influence—A Poetic Encounter": UMMA.** U-M MFA student Talin Tahajian curates an evening of readings by U-M students and local poets in the Tristin Lowe installation at UMMA, which includes a large felt facsimile of the moon. *5 p.m., UMMA Stenn Family Gallery, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

★**Bluegrass Gospel Jam Session.** Mark and Claudia Aills are joined by other local string musicians for a program of bluegrass and country gospel tunes. *6–8:30 p.m., Dexter Senior Center, 7720 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. Free, but donations accepted for Dexter Senior Center. 878–1078.*

Michigan Ethnic Dance Festival: PURe Dance Ensemble. Dance companies from around the state perform folk dances from Mexico, India, Africa, Germany, Ireland, the Caribbean, and elsewhere. *6 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets $10 at a2tix.com/organizations/pure-dance-ensemble. 474–6313.*

Art Auction: U-M Prison Creative Arts Project. Live auction of artwork by incarcerated artists, PCAP curators, U-M faculty members, and other Michigan artists. The program begins with a wine & dessert reception. *6:30 p.m., Michigan League Hussey Rm. Free admission. 647–6771.*

"Holiday Ballroom Dance": Pittsfield Township Parks & Recreation. Ballroom dancing to recorded music. No partner necessary. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a beginning waltz lesson. *7–9 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Community Center, 701 Ellsworth. $5 at the door only. 822–2117.*

2nd Saturday Contra Dance Party: Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance. Stillwater (OK) caller Louise Siddons leads contras

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"Coloring with Cats": Tiny Lions Lounge and Adoption Center. All age 12 & up invited to color while interacting with adoptable cats. Snacks, soda, and coloring supplies provided. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Tiny Lions, 5245 Jackson Rd. (ste. A1). $10. Preregistration recommended at tinylions.org/coloringwithcats. 661–3575.*

"Hello Dolly!": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

"The Elves and the Schumachers": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 7:30 p.m.

"Star Trek Puppet Show": Dreamland Theater. See 1 Saturday. 7:30 p.m.

"Mages & Mystics Ball": Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. Various 19th-century dances, including the varsovienne, waltz, and others. With live music by Childgrove. Mage, mystic, and fairy costumes and period ball attire encouraged. All dance levels welcome. Preceded at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. by dance lessons. *7:45–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $30 (includes lessons). Preregistration requested at vintagedance.com/vict-ball.htm. 769–0041.*

U-M Harmonettes. This all-female a cappella ensemble performs Amy Winehouse's "You Know I'm No Good," Zedd's "The Middle," Billie Eilish's "My Boy," Frank Ocean's "Thinkin' Bout You," and Bea Miller's "Yes Girl." *8 p.m., MLB, 812 E. Washington. Tickets $10 (kids age 12 & under & students, $7). harmonettes@umich.edu*

Billy King: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704 Coffeehouse. Pop-folk with roots-rock and country swing flavors by this talented veteran local singer-songwriter and guitarist. *8–10 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. $8 ($15 for 2). 665–0409.*

Charles Lloyd & the Marvels and Lucinda Williams: University Musical Society. *See review, p. 73.* Legendary jazz saxophonist and flutist Lloyd and his band are joined by the iconic smoky-voiced singer-songwriter Williams in works from their critically acclaimed collaboration, *Vanished Gardens,* an album of jazz, Americana, gospel, and blues tunes. *Uncut Magazine* (U.K.) calls it a collection of "luminescent master classes in intuitive ensemble playing," with "Lloyd's sax as lyrical as Williams' poetry and matched by the inventiveness of the Marvels." The Marvels include legendary guitarists **Bill Frisell** and **Greg Leisz,** who both have also recorded with Williams, along with bassist **Reuben Rogers** and drummer **Eric Harland.** *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $40–$64 in advance at ums.org, by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764–2538.*

Cold Tone Harvest: Stony Lake Brewing Acoustic Routes Concert. Performance by this Plymouth-based acoustic roots quartet led by singer-songwriter Andrew Sigworth. *No Depression* praises its debut album, *After You,* for its "dense sound that fills every corner." With guitarist Tony Pace and bassist Ozzie Andrews. *8 p.m., Stony Lake Brewing, 447 E. Michigan Ave., Saline. $15 at the door only. 316–7919.*

★**"A Trip to Vienna": U-M Life Sciences Orchestra.** This ensemble of musicians from the U-M medical and life sciences staff performs works TBA. Preceded at 7:15 p.m. by a lecture on the program. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 936-ARTS.*

"all our pasts tomorrow": U-M Dance Department B.F.A. Dance Concert. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"A Child's Christmas in Wales": Michigan Celtic Repertory Company. *Dec. 8 & 9 (different locations).* David Kiley directs this new local company in the New York Irish Repertory Theatre's musical adaptation of Dylan Thomas's nostalgic holiday story recalling his boyhood holiday experiences, which the *New York Times* describes as "a caroling session sprinkled with occasional reminiscences." With Welsh holiday treats and hot cider. *8 p.m. (Sat.), Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. & 4 p.m. (Sun.), Conor O'Neill's, 316 S. Main. Tickets $20 at a2tix.com/events. Michiganceltictrep.org*

"The Grand Duke, or the Statutory Duel": U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society. See 6 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Diva Royale": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Twelfth Night": U-M Theatre Department. See 6 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Sean Kent: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 6 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

9 SUNDAY

"Homegrown at the Cobblestone": CS2 Productions. Show and sale of fine arts and crafts by Michigan artists. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard. Free admission. (248) 875–7226.*

galleries

New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Avenue. *Tabletop Stories from the International Museum of Dinnerware Design* (Dec. 3–Jan. 9 in the lower level display cases). Dinnerware from ancient to contemporary cultures, created from ceramic, glass, plastic, metal, lacquer, paper, wood, and more. Mon. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Tues.–Fri. 9 a.m.–9 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. noon–6 p.m. 327–4200.

Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. *On the Wing: Michigan's Local & Migratory Birds* (Dec. 5–Jan. 6). Photorealistic graphite drawings of local birds against abstract geometric backgrounds by local artist Astrid Monique Padilla. Reception Dec. 12, 5 p.m. Mon.–Fri. 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m., by appointment, and during evening concerts. 769–2999.

U-M Clark Library, Hatcher Grad Library, 2nd floor (enter from the Diag). *Sinking Cities: Documenting the Realities of Climate Change in Cities Around the World* (through Feb. 18). Photographs and video chronicling the human cost of rising sea levels in Indonesia, Bangladesh, the Netherlands, Italy, and the U.S. by U-M College of Engineering video producer Marcin Szczepanski and U-M engineering alum Frank Sedlar.

U-M Clements Library, 909 South University. *"Over There" with the American Expeditionary Forces in France During the Great War* (through April 26). Papers and items relating to WWI, such as a gas mask, a doughboy helmet, censored letters, and one of Douglas MacArthur's internal communiques. Mon.–Thurs. 9 a.m.–4:45 p.m. 764–2347.

U-M Museum of Art (UMMA), 525 S. State. *Art in the Age of the Internet, 1989 to Today* (Dec. 15–Apr. 7). 40+ works responding to the impact of internet culture on visual art across a variety of media, including painting, photography, sculpture, and video. Tues.–Sat. 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. 764–0395.

WSG Gallery, 306 S. Main. *Annual Holiday Show* (Dec. 1–29). Show and sale of paintings, jewelry, photography, glass, ceramics, fiber art, and more by nearly 50 local artists. Mon.–Wed. noon–6 p.m., Thurs. noon–9 p.m., Fri. & Sat. noon–10 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. 761–2287.

★"Religion in the Age of Technology": First United Methodist Church Conversations About Science and Religion. All invited to join a discussion, led by hardware design engineer Gordan Jurasek, of chapters 3 & 4 of Noreen Herzfeld's 2009 book *Technology and Religion*. *11 a.m.–12:15 p.m., FUMC Calkins Hall, 120 S. State. Free. 662–4536.*

★"Scientist Spotlight": U-M Natural History Museum. Several U-M research scientists in a range of fields from anthropology and psychology to chemistry, natural resources, and the environment are stationed throughout the room with interactive activities focusing on their own current work. For example, visitors might look at miniature versions of an archaeological site to draw conclusions about the people who lived there. For grade 2–adult. *1–3 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library Downtown multipurpose rm. Free. 327–4200.*

★"Build a Square Wave Oscillator": Ann Arbor District Library. All grade 6–adult invited to assemble and solder a square wave oscillator, a small device that produces sounds electronically. Materials provided. *1–3 p.m. AADL Westgate. Free. 327–4200.*

★Shape Note Singing: Ann Arbor Sacred Harp. All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Sacred Harp songbooks available, but singers encouraged to bring their own. *1–4 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free, but donations accepted for music scholarships. 678–7549, 663–0262.*

★"Proof: The Ryoichi Excavations": UMMA. Docent-led tour of the current exhibit of Patrick Nagatani's photographs of staged archaeological excavations made to look like modern cars have been found at ancient sites. *2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

★"Pompom Gnome": Ann Arbor District Library. Holiday ornament craft activity for all grade 3–adult. Needles and hot glue are used. *2–3 p.m. AADL Traverwood. Free. 327–4200.*

★"Piano Party!": King's Keyboard House. Open mike for area piano students. Usually, 20–30 students play. Wine, cheese, and snacks served at 3 p.m. Also, a raffle for a free keyboard (tickets available at the store or by emailing sales@kingskeyboard.com). *2–4 p.m., King's Keyboard House, 2363 E. Stadium. Free. 663–3381.*

"All About the Trio": Kerrytown Concert House. U-M jazz piano professor Ellen Rowe leads her trio in one of her popular lecture-concerts. Today's program features holiday classics played in the styles of George Shearing, Cal Tjader, Gary Burton, and the Modern Jazz Quartet. With bassist Paul Keller, drummer Pete Siers, and guest vibraphonist Cary Kocher. *2 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $15–$30 (students, $10) in advance at a2tix.com/events/12–9-2018all-aboutthetrio. Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

★Congolese Class Showing: U-M Dance Department. An informal showcase of dancing and drumming led by Congolese dance master teacher Jean-Claude Biza Sompa. *2 p.m., U-M Dance Bldg. Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. Free. 763–5460.*

"The Nutcracker": Randazzo Dance Company. See 8 Saturday. 2 p.m.

★U-M Residential College Drama Concentration. U-M drama lecturer Kate Mendeloff directs RC students in scenes from ***Uncle Vanya,*** Chekhov's richly varied ensemble piece about the search for happiness—through love, achievement, or nature—at various stages of life. *2 p.m., Keene Theatre, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647–4354.*

"The Grand Duke, or the Statutory Duel": U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society. See 6 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Hello Dolly!": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Elves and the Schumachers": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Twelfth Night": U-M Theatre Department. See 6 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Diva Royale": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

Advanced English Dance: Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance. Stillwater (OK) caller Louise Siddons leads dances to live music by Susie Lorand, Josh Burdick, Matt McCoy, and another musician TBA. For experienced dancers. *2:30–5:30 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse (off S. State across from the airport). $12 (members, $10). (248) 288–4737.*

★Holiday Concert: Dexter Community Band. Bill Gourley directs this 85-member volunteer ensemble in a program of holiday music featuring a vocal quintet TBA in *Christmas on Broadway,* a medley of holiday tunes featured in Broadway musicals. The group also joins the band in renditions of "On With the Snow," "White Christmas," and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." Also, a visit from Santa, who gives out candy canes and joins a sing-along of traditional Christmas songs. Followed by cookies & punch. *3 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker, Dexter. Free. 426–2734.*

★"Music in Words": Ann Arbor Civic Chorus. Karen TenBrink directs this community choir of all ages in an eclectic program of works with musical or poetic lyrics, works that feature jazz scatting, and music from the repertoire of the Swingle Singers. *3 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium. Free. 994–2300.*

★43rd Annual Christmas Concert: The Willis Patterson Our Own Thing Chorale. U-M music professor emeritus Patterson directs this popular local choir in Christmas spirituals and works by African American composers. This is Patterson's last concert before retirement. *3 p.m., Church of the Good Shepherd, 2145 Independence. Free; offering taken during intermission. 769–4437.*

"A Child's Christmas in Wales": Michigan Celtic Repertory Company. See 8 Saturday. 3 p.m.

"and … then he looked at me": Spinning Dot Theatre. See 8 Saturday. 3 p.m.

★Classical Bells Holiday Concert: Ann Arbor District Library. Darlene Ebersole directs this acclaimed Detroit-area handbell ensemble whose performances are known for their interpretive flair, technical skill, and informal choreography, along with a dash of humor. This popular annual concert showcases the group's varied repertoire of classical, inspirational, seasonal, popular, and even ragtime and swing tunes. *3:30–4:30 p.m., AADL Downtown lobby. Free. 327–4200.*

★"Story Slam": First Presbyterian Church. All invited to an open mike storytelling session similar to The Moth, the nonprofit that sponsors storytelling events where people volunteer to tell a 3–5 minute true story. Followed at 5 p.m. by a reception with a crèche display, live music, and refreshments. *4 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466, ext. 342.*

"Celebrating the Elements: Earth, Water, Air, and Fire": Ann Arbor Grail Singers. Deborah Friauff directs this 15-voice women's early-music choir in a holiday program of Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque works, many based on Psalms that refer to the elements. Composers include Telemann, Schütz, Morley, Weelkes, Farnaby, and Lassus. With viola da gambist Janet Cannon and chamber organist Martha Folts. *4 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. $15 (seniors, $12; students, $5). Cash or check only. AnnArborGrailSingers.org, 453–5966.*

★Javanese Gamelan Music & Dance Performance: U-M School of Music. Renowned Yogyakarta gamelan musician Raharja guest conducts an ensemble in traditional Javanese music. With dance performances in the Yogyakarta and Surakarta styles. The gamelan is an assembly of 50 gongs and metallophones, drums, strings, flutes, xylophone, and singers. *4–6 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin. Free. 615–3204.*

★"Murder in the Lincoln White House": Booked for Murder Mystery Book Club. All invited to join a discussion of the first in C.M. Gleason's historical mystery series that revolves around a young investigator dispatched by the president. *4:30 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate shopping center. Free. 769–2149.*

Tree Lighting Ceremony: Zingerman's Cornman Farms. With live holiday music by the U-M Dicks and Janes a cappella ensemble. Hot chocolate & snacks. Cash bar. *5–7 p.m., Cornman Farms, 8540 Island Lake Rd., Dexter. $20 (kids, $10, kids under 2, free). Reservations required. 619–8100.*

★Stephen Shipps & Martin Katz: U-M School of Music. U-M violin professor Shipps and U-M piano professor Katz perform all 3 of Brahms' violin sonatas. *5 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits. Free. 615–3204.*

"A Heritage Holiday": George Shirley Scholarship Fundraiser (Kerrytown Concert House). Performances by soprano **Lenora Green,** baritone **Daniel Mihaescu,** bass-baritone **Daniel Washington, Willis Patterson's Our Own Thing Chorale,** and 2018 George Shirley scholarship winners TBA. With pianist **Kathryn Goodson.** *6 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $20–$35 (students, $10) at eventbrite.com. Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"Ann Arbor (Mostly) Acoustic Jam." *Dec. 9 & 23.* Musicians of all ability levels invited to sing and play anything from classic rock, Motown, and blues to bluegrass, folk, and country. All acoustic instruments (strings, horns, and woodwinds) welcome. Led by veteran local musicians Bill Connors and Phil McMillion. The 2nd Sunday of each month features a focus song, followed by jamming. The 4th Sunday features an open mike for solo, duo, and trio performers, followed by jamming. Also, on Dec. 16, there is a **session for songwriters** to try out their new work and get critiques (Great Oak Cohousing common area, 500 Little Lake Dr.). *7–9 p.m., U-M Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. $5 for participants, spectators free. Preregistration required at Meetup.com/Ann-Arbor-Acoustic-Jam. 998–9353.*

★University Symphony Orchestra: U-M School of Music. Kenneth Kiesler conducts this ensemble of music majors in the world premiere of jazz-classical fusion composer David Amram's *Partners,* with Dallas Symphony Orchestra musicians, including violinist **Maria Schleuning** and cellist **Jolyon Pegis.** Amram—who has worked with Dizzy Gillespie, Langston Hughes, Woody Guthrie, and Willie Nelson, among others—composed the work in three movements dedicated to various musicians: "Woody and Pete" (Woody Guthrie & Pete Seeger), "Prez and Lady Day" (Lester Young & Billie Holiday), and "Machito y Celia" (Machito Grillo & Celia Cruz). Also, Copland's *Our Town* and Bernstein's *West Side Story Overture* and *On the Waterfront* suite. *7 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615–3204.*

"The Madness of George III": University Musical Society. Broadcast of the 2018 National Theatre (London) production of Alan Bennett's award-winning 1991 historical drama set in England in 1786 about the political disruption and personal crises resulting from King George III's increasingly erratic behavior. Mark Gatiss, Adrian Scarborough. *7 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $22 (MTF members, $18) in advance at ums.org, by phone and (if available) at the door. 764–2538.*

"Call Backs for the Shadow League": Pointless Brewery & Theatre. Finalists vie for a spot in one [illegible] theater's improv troupes. *7:30 p.m., Pointless, [illegible] Packard. $5 suggested donation (or pay what you can). info@pointlessbrew.com (989) 455–4484.*

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10 MONDAY

★**"Rejoice Greatly!": U-M School of Music.** Students of U-M voice professor Stanford Olsen perform selections from oratorio repertoire by Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Britten, and Orff. With pianist **Kathryn Goodson** and other instrumentalists. *12:30 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. McIntosh Theatre, 1100 Baits. Free. 615–3204.*

★**Aaron Foley: Ann Arbor District Library.** This Chief Storyteller for the City of Detroit, author of *How to Live in Detroit Without Being a Jackass,* discusses the characteristics of different Detroit neighborhoods. *6:30–8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown lobby. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Sewing Lab": Ann Arbor District Library.** All grade 6–adult invited to get basic sewing help with their unfinished projects or learn how to use the AADL sewing machines. Basic sewing instruction available. Bring your own sewing machine, if you wish. Tonight, Detroit fashion designer **Nettie Tiso** demonstrates how to make **fleece hats and scarves.** *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Sharpie-Dyed Coasters": Ann Arbor District Library.** All grade 6-adult invited to color with Sharpies on tiles and then drip rubbing alcohol on them to create a watercolor effect. Materials provided. *7–8 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek. Free. 327–4200.*

★**Scandinavian Music Jam.** Bruce Sagan and Brad Battey lead an acoustic jam session devoted to traditional music from Sweden and Norway. All musicians invited. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Great Oak Cohousing common area, 500 Little Lake Dr. Free. (908) 721–2599.*

11 TUESDAY

"The Trump Administration and the Middle East: Dissecting the Chaos": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Distinguished Lecture Series. Talk by WSU Islamic studies professor Saeed Khan. 4th in a series of 10 monthly lectures. *10–11:30 a.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. $50 for the 10-lecture series. Memberships are $20 a year. $10 per lecture for members. 998–9351.*

★**"Special Collections After Hours: Do You Want to Play a Game?": U-M Library.** Display of board games from the Labadie Collection. Also, a chance to play some of them. *4–7 p.m., U-M Hatcher Grad Library 6th floor, enter from the Diag. Free. 763–1746.*

★**"Bookbinding: Long Stitch": Ann Arbor District Library.** All grade 6-adult invited to learn this simple method of bookbinding. No stitching experience required. *6–8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab. Free. 327–4200.*

"3rd Annual Holiday Gala": Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers. Silent auction and mead tasting. *6 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free admission; $15 for mead tasting (includes 5 1-oz. pours). Metered parking. leelwalsh@comcast.net*

"Photo Tour of Turkmenistan": American Business Women's Association. Photo presentation by a local exchange student. Followed by a silent auction of holiday gifts. The program begins with networking and dinner. *6 p.m., Quarter Bistro, 300 S. Maple. $21 in advance; $20 (cash or check only) at the door. Reservations required by noon Dec. 6 at abwa-maia.org/resform.html. mortime@emich.edu*

★**"Herbal Sachets Gift Making": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local crafter Dawn Henry helps all grade 6-adult make sachets with lavender, rose, chamomile, marigold, mint, or jasmine. Materials provided. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Holiday Yarn Trees": Ann Arbor District Library.** All grade 6-adult invited to wrap colored yarn around tree-shaped wire sculptures to make holiday table toppers. Materials provided. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"National Security in Threatening Times": U-M Ford Presidential Library.** Talk by WTOP radio (Washington, D.C.) national security correspondent **J.J. Green.** *7 p.m., Ford Library, 1000 Beal. Free. 205–0555.*

"Ann Arbor Bluegrass Jam": Ann Arbor Senior Center. All musicians invited to bring their acoustic instruments to play bluegrass and bluegrass-style music. Vocalists welcome. *7–9 p.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $5 fee to cover building rental. a2bluegrass.com, 794–6250.*

★**"Pub Sing": Ann Arbor Morris.** Local Morris dancers lead an evening of rousing choruses, drinking songs, sea shanties, and English folk songs. Food & drinks available. *7–10 p.m., Wolverine State Brewing Co., 2019 W. Stadium. Free. (908) 721–2599.*

★**"Plausible Fictions: Electronic Chamber Music": U-M School of Music/UMMA.** U-M music professor Michael Gurevich directs electronic chamber music students in works that use technology to subvert or transform perceptions of reality. Inspired by the current photography exhibit, *Proof: The Ryoichi Excavations. 7 p.m., UMMA Apse, 525 S. State. Free. 615–3204.*

★**"The Wizard and the Prophet": Sierra Club Book Club.** All invited to discuss Charles Mann's incisive portrait of 20th-century scientists Norman Borlaug and William Vogt, whose diametrically opposed views shaped current ideas about the environment. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971–1157.*

★**University Philharmonia Orchestra & University Choir: U-M School of Music.** Oriol Sans conducts these ensembles of music majors in Jean Sibelius's Symphony no 5, notable for its famous "Swan Hymn," a theme inspired by the vision of 16 swans taking off over the water. The program also includes Beethoven's *Fidelio Overture* and Debussy's enchantingly foggy and delicate *Nocturnes. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615–3204.*

12 WEDNESDAY

"Diva Royale": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 p.m.

"Ari's Greatest Hits of 2018": Zingerman's Delicatessen. *Dec. 12, 13, 19, & 20.* Zingerman's cofounder Ari Weinzweig discusses and offers taste samples of some of his favorite Zingerman's products. This extremely popular annual event usually sells out. *6:30–8:30 p.m., Zingerman's, 422 Detroit St. $55 in advance and (if available) at the door. 663–3400.*

★**"An Evening of Poetry and Written Word": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** All invited to read and discuss their poetry or short stories. Bring about 6 copies of your work to share. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★**"3-D Paper Snowflakes": Ann Arbor District Library.** Craft project for all grade 6–adult. *7–8 p.m., AADL Pittsfield. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"French Macarons 101": Ann Arbor District Library.** People's Food Co-op head baker Keegan Rodgers presents a hands-on introduction to making and properly storing these tasty meringue-based cookies, not to be confused with macaroons. Recipes. For adults and teens in grade 6 & up. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown lobby. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Conquer Your Cravings": People's Food Co-op.** Talk by local raw foods advocate Ellen Livingston. *7–8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. 994–4589.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 5 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

13 THURSDAY

★**"Meditation for Beginners": Isha Foundation.** A certified Isha Kriya meditation instructor discusses and leads a session of this simple guided meditation of 12–18 minutes. *4–5 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library 3rd floor free space, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. (313) 451–4742.*

★**"Mindfulness and Meditation for Adults": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local massage therapist and meditation leader Amy Tarrant leads participants in a series of guided meditations. Bring a blanket or pillow, if you like. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Traverwood. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Story Night": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** Ann Arbor Storytellers Guild members host a storytelling program. Audience members are encouraged to bring a 5-minute story to tell. This is the last performance until March 2019. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. annarborstorytelling.org*

★**"Open Mike & Share": Bookbound.** All poets invited to read their own work or a favorite poem by another writer. Followed by a reading by a featured poet TBA. *7 p.m., Bookbound, 1729 Plymouth. Free. 369–4345.*

★**"Stories of Us": Ann Arbor District Library.** All-ages storytelling program with stories about migration, movement, exile, and belonging, featuring U-M Afroamerican and African outreach coordinator **Elizabeth James,** EMU Students Organize for Syria president **Ahnas Alzahabi,** and AADL storyteller **Laura Raynor.** *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown multipurpose rm. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Sew a Maze!": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local crafter Beth Battey shows all grade 6–adult how to make a handheld fabric maze for marbles. Supplies provided. *7–8:45 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Singing for Comfort": Threshold Choir.** All invited to join this local choir to sing soothing songs that are easy to learn. No experience necessary. *7–8:30 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport. Free. 646–7405, (313) 204–0060.*

★**"Homeopathy Basics": People's Food Co-op.** Talk by naturopath Clinton Zimmerman. *7–8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. 994–4589.*

Smell & Tell with Michelle Krell Kydd

Olfactory humanitarian

MARK BIALEK

Michelle Krell Kydd's free "Smell & Tell" sessions usually meet downtown on the fourth floor of the Ann Arbor District Library. I've been to several of them with my perfume-collecting, oil-blending wife, Lindsay. Each time, we are given fragrance-dipped strips of blotter paper and invited to share our olfactory impressions. Close your eyes and breathe, she urges us. How many different scents are you smelling at once? What are you inhaling? What's it doing to your mind?

Dreams and memories resurface. The imagination stirs. It's a pleasant workout for the brain's limbic system. One fragrance made me think of pear trees and wild roses reflected upside down in still water, as described in a poem by Friedrich Hölderlin. Lindsay's comment on the same blend was "this smells like the incense they used to sell at the Grande Ballroom."

Kydd, whose powers of olfactory discernment are extraordinary, describes herself as a walking smellopedia. A veteran of the beauty and perfume industries, she has an unusually expansive range of expertise. Rarely does one encounter an individual so well versed in chemistry, botany, brain science, cognitive psychology, communication, and human nature. She is robustly bookish; Chilean poet Pablo Neruda is one of the dedicatees of her blog (glasspetalsmoke.blogspot.com), which touches upon topics as diverse as the music of Brian Eno and Clancy's Fancy Hot Sauce (which she calls "The Umami Mother Lode"). Among perfumers, musical terminology abounds; one whiff of perfume is like a chord made up of top, middle, and bass notes. A pretty fragrance is like a melody, familiar yet different every time.

Our first "Smell & Tell" session dealt entirely with oak moss derivatives. We marveled as she explained how the essence of lichen is refined and blended into exquisite perfumes. Another evening was devoted to an earthy scent derived from the roots of a tropical bunchgrass known as vetiver. After being given little cups of vetiver tea to drink, we sampled a heady selection of elegant, vetiver-based perfumes. Months later, Kydd conducted a "Scent Hike" out of doors at County Farm Park, assisted by county parks naturalist Shawn Severance. Again attendees were invited to sip tea—this time brewed from various plants and flowers growing all around us.

"Smell & Tell" is predicated upon the idea that comparative discussion based upon personal impressions can engender tolerance and compassion in the world. Kydd's mission is to expand individual and collective consciousness through community-building exercises in which everyone's perspective is accepted, respected, and embraced. Sensory evaluation builds mindfulness. Words can engender clarity, neutrality, or confusion. We're not here to agree on everything. Each of us plays a role in constructing reality. We are connected, she says, like one human organism.

Kydd's "Smell & Tell" series returns to the downtown library December 19.

—arwulf arwulf

★**"Deck the Hall": Ypsilanti Community Choir.** Ariel Toews-Ricotta directs the choir, accompanied by the **Depot Town Big Band,** in an eclectic program of seasonal choral music and big-band favorites. Preconcert and intermission music by the local jazz quartet **BDQ.** *7:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 481–9285.*

"Hello Dolly!": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 7:30 p.m.

escapeVelocity: Kerrytown Concert House. This piano-violin duo of Texas-based violinist Giancarlo Latta and NYC-based pianist Robert Fleitz performs 20th- and 21st-century chamber works, including Ruth Crawford's Sonata for Violin and Piano, Olga Neuwirth's *Quasare/Pulsare,* Judith Weir's *Music for 247 Strings,* duos by Jessica Mays and Rebecca Saunders, and Theo Chandler's *Reflected Arcs,* a new work commissioned by the duo. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $20 (students, $10) in advance at a2tix.com/events/12–13–2018escapevelocity/tickets, 769–2999.*

"Diva Royale": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Joe DeVito: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 13–15.* Popular NYC comic whose act is a fast-paced blend of mordantly irreverent observational one-liners with self-deprecating storytelling about male-female relationships, his Italian American family, and current events. He was one of the principal writers for Morgan Spurlock's satirical documentary *Super Size Me.* Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. $9 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $11 (Thurs.) & $16 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

14 FRIDAY

★**"Behind the Scenes Tour": U-M Clements Library.** *Dec. 14 & 21.* Presentation and docent-led tour of the recently renovated library and its current exhibit, ***'Over There' with the American Expeditionary Forces in France During the Great War.*** *11 a.m., Clements, 909 South University. Free; preregistration requested at myumi.ch/650X8. 764–2347.*

6th Annual Holiday Pottery Sale: Clay Works Studio. Reception for this show and sale of works by studio members. The sale continues through Jan. 6. *5–9 p.m., 2763 Plymouth Rd. Free admission. 604–7596.*

"Euchre Change a Life!" Five-game euchre tournament. Prizes. Food & drink available; bring a snack to share, if you wish. Quarters are collected each time a team gets euchred. Proceeds benefit Haitian children. *6 p.m. sharp (check-in 5:15–5:45 p.m.), 242 Community Center, 648 S. Wagner. $10 donation in advance at facebook.com/EuchreChangeALife; $20 at the door. euchrechangealife@gmail.com*

★**"Duct Tape Tote Bags": Ann Arbor District Library.** All grade 6–adult invited to make and acces-

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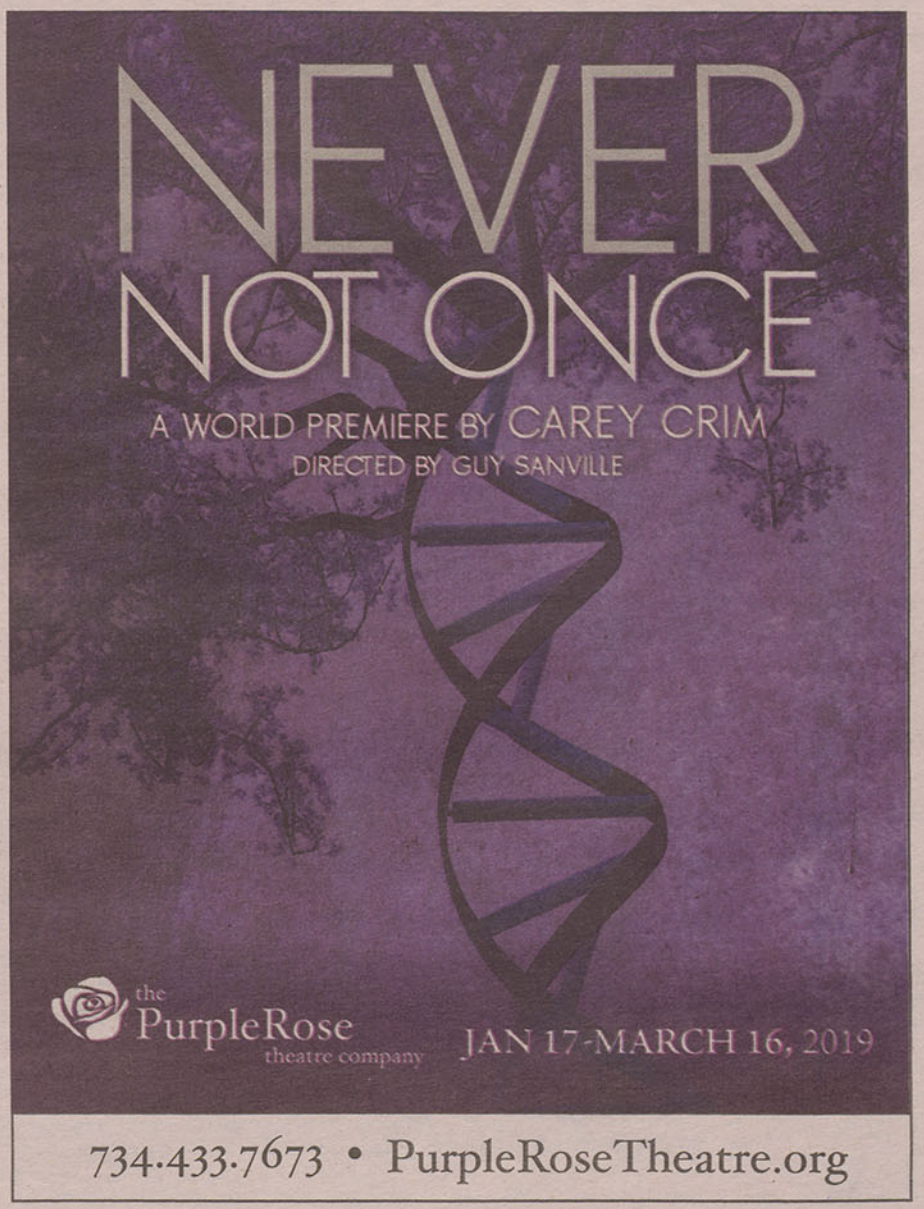

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sorize small bags using colorful duct tape. *6–8 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab. Free. 327–4200.*

★**Corey Strong: Ann Arbor District Library.** Performance of favorite holiday songs by this Detroit-based singer-songwriter, who cites Luther Vandross, Josh Groban, and Michael Bublé as influences. *7–8 p.m., AADL Downtown multipurpose rm. Free. 327–4200.*

"A Dickens of a Christmas": Saline Varsity Blues Holiday Show. *Dec. 14 & 15.* This 100-member chorus of singers ages 7–18 performs its annual program of holiday songs. This year's show is a tribute to Scrooge. *7 p.m., Saline Middle School, 7190 N. Maple, Saline. Tickets $10 in advance at Saline Community Ed and Busch's; $13 at the door. salinevarsityblues.org*

"Freaky Friday": Horizon Performing Arts. *Dec. 14–16.* Brandon Waldenmayer directs area professional and amateur actors in middle school and up in Tom Kitt, Brian Yorkey, and Bridget Carpenter's 2016 Disney musical comedy about a mother and daughter who magically swap personalities for a day. Based on the 1972 book of the same name and its 1976 and 2003 film adaptations. *7 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 2 p.m. (Sat.), & 1 p.m. (Sun.), Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets $15 in advance at horizonperformingarts.org and at the door. 546–8784.*

★**"The Many Facets of Food Justice": People's Food Co-op.** Talk by Our Kitchen Table (Grand Rapids) social justice nonprofit representative Stelle Slootmaker. *7–8:30 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. Free. 994–4589*

★**"Holiday Celebration": Washtenaw Community Concert Band.** Chris Heidenreich conducts this 70-member ensemble in seasonal works ranging from James Ployhar's "Christmas Sing-A-Long," Sean O'Loughlin's arrangement of "Carol of the Bells," and Bill Holcombe's "Festive Sounds of Hanukah" to foot-stomping works like Julie Giroux's "Jingle Them Bells" and "Three Wise Guys." Also, carol singing. Refreshments. *7:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. wccband.org*

"Hello Dolly!": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 7:30 p.m.

"The Elves and the Schumachers": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 7:30 p.m.

7th Annual Holiday Pops Concert: Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra is joined by ensembles containing more than 250 area singers—the **Ann Arbor Youth Chorale,** the women of the Pioneer, Huron, Skyline, and Saline **high school choirs,** and the large local men's chorus **Measure for Measure**—in a program of seasonal music concluding with "Let There Be Peace on Earth." Also, an appearance by Santa and a sing-along. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $15–$57 (discounts for seniors & students) in advance at a2so.com & the AASO office (35 Research Dr., ste. 100), and (if available) at the door. 994–4801.*

Katie Geddes and Friends: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). An evening of acoustic music hosted by Geddes, a local folksinger who sings in a clear, strong voice. Her repertoire includes songs by everyone from Buffy Sainte-Marie and John Prine to Michael Nesmith and Lennon & McCartney, and her recent CD, *We Are Each Other's Angels,* has gotten airplay around the world. The lineup also includes **All About Eve,** the vocal trio of Geddes, Deb Wood, and David Vaughn. They specialize in close-harmony pop, folk, and gospel tunes, some performed a cappella and some accompanied by guitarist Dan Reynolds. Also, area singer-songwriter **Matt Watroba,** who sings lyrical songs and poignant ballads in a sweet tenor voice, accompanying himself on guitar. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $15 in advance and at the door. 665–8558.*

Ursula Walker: Kerrytown Concert House. This versatile veteran Detroit jazz vocalist, recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2012 Detroit Music Awards, is known for her improvisational approach to melody and swinging rhythmic prowess. Walker is backed by her husband, pianist Buddy Budson, in an ensemble with trumpeter Dwight Adams, saxophonist Rafael Statin, bassist Jeff Hasley, and drummer Dave Taylor. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $15–$30 (students, $10) in advance at a2tix.com/events/12–14–18-ursulawalker. Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"Diva Royale": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Joe DeVito: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 13 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

15 SATURDAY

★**72nd Annual Christmas Bird Count: Washtenaw Audubon Society.** Everyone from novices to experienced birders is invited to volunteer for all or part of the day, either as a field observer or (if you have a bird feeder) as a feeder watcher. The count area is a 15-mile-diameter circle centered on Ann Arbor; its 8 regions must be counted in a single day. This makeshift census may be off by thousands, but much useful information is gained by comparing the results from year to year. Some count regions also conduct predawn searches for owls. The results are tallied at a potluck dinner at U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens this evening at 6 p.m. *6 a.m. For instructions on where and when to show up and any further information, call Jacco Gelderloos at 973–9422. Free; donations accepted. To sign up as a feeder watcher, contact Kurt Hagemeister at 663–9746 or khagemeister@sbcglobal.net.*

Christmas Bake Sale: St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church. Traditional Russian and American holiday sweets and other favorites from around the world, including the popular Matreshka iced cookies. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., St. Vladimir, 9900 Jackson Rd., Dexter. Free admission. 475–4590.*

★**"Celebrate the Holidays and End of the Year": MacTechnics.** Screening of PIXAR animated shorts and other videos. Also, a chance to learn how video games are made and try playing some, and information on using music and iOS technology to create a festive atmosphere. Refreshments. *10 a.m.–2 p.m., NEW Center, 1100 N. Main. Free. Contact@mactechnics.org*

★**Death Café.** All invited to join a frank conversation about death. Hosted by After Death Home Care founder Merilynne Rush and Diana Cramer. Tea & cake served. *10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. 395–9660.*

Craft Show: Maker Works. Show and sale of gift items made, in whole or part, at Maker Works. *11 a.m.–4 p.m., Maker Works, 3765 Plaza Dr. Free admission. 222–4911.*

"La Traviata": Fathom Events. Live broadcast of the **Metropolitan Opera** production of Verdi's ever popular 1853 operatic adaptation of Alexandre Dumas's *The Lady of the Camellias.* It is the story of a Parisian courtesan who sacrifices her one chance at happiness when she learns that her relationship with her lover is compromising his family's honor. Italian, subtitles. Also, an **encore** performance Dec. 19 (1 & 6:30 p.m.) at Ann Arbor 20. *12:55 p.m., Quality 16 (3686 Jackson), Ann Arbor 20 (4100 Carpenter), Emagine (1335 E. Michigan Ave., Saline). Tickets $18–$27 in advance at fathomevents.com/events. 623–7469 (Quality 16), 973–8424 (Ann Arbor 20), 316–5500 (Emagine).*

"Christmas at Rentschler Farm": Saline Area Historical Society. *Dec. 15 & 16.* A re-creation of a Depression-era Christmas, with natural decorations. Also, a visit from Santa and demos of a sock-knitting machine, quilting, and other crafts. Cookies & cider. Gift shop. *1–4 p.m., Rentschler Farm Museum, 1265 E. Michigan Ave., Saline. Donation. salinehistory@frontier.com, 944–0442.*

★**"Saturday Sampler": U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.** *Dec. 15, 22, & 29.* Docent-led themed tours of the museum, including **"Fakes, Forgeries, and Really Good Replicas"** (Dec. 15), **"How-To Hieroglyph"** (Dec. 22), and **"Highlights of the Kelsey Museum"** (Dec. 29). *2–3 p.m., Kelsey Museum, 434 S. State. Free. 764–9304.*

53rd Annual Community Messiah Sing. All interested people capable of reading and performing the vocal parts are invited to join this friendly, informal, unrehearsed performance of Handel's beloved oratorio. Between 150 and 200 singers usually participate, including professionals, semiprofessionals, serious amateurs, families, and church choirs. A volunteer orchestra of 40 to 50 instrumentalists is also needed; prospective players should call the number below as soon as possible to ensure section balance. Directed by Richard Ingram. Scores provided, or participants may bring their own. (The Prout edition, published by Schirmer, is used.) Orchestra players should bring their own stands and be ready for a warm-up at 1:30 p.m. Cider, water, and hot tea provided; bring goodies to share. *2–5 p.m., St. Clare Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. $5 suggested donation to help defray cost of using the building. Prospective orchestra members should contact Carey Jones at cwjones321@yahoo.com.*

"Parm Party": Zingerman's Creamery. *Dec. 15 & 30.* Zingerman's cheesemakers discuss and offer taste samples of different Parmigiano Reggiano cheeses, as well as gelato made with the cheese. Bread and additional accompaniments. *3–5 p.m. (11 a.m.–1 p.m., Dec. 30), Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. $10. Reservations required. 929–0500.*

"Tool Zoo": Maker Works. Members lead a tour of the shop and demonstrate tools, from a 3-D printer to a pewter casting machine and a plasma steel cutter. Demo pieces available to take home. Kids must be accompanied by a parent. *4:30 p.m., Maker Works, 3765 Plaza Dr. $5 (family, $8). Preregistration required at maker-works.com/tours. 222–4911.*

"The Nutcracker": Academy of Russian Classical Ballet. Faculty and students from this suburban Detroit ballet school perform Tchaikovsky's perennially popular Christmas ballet. *6:30 p.m., Michigan The-*

ater. Tickets $35–$45 in advance at all Ticketmaster outlets (ticketmaster.com) & russianclassicalballet.com, and at the door. (248) 982–7882.

"I Name This Body MINE: Poetry Night in Ann Arbor": The Neutral Zone. Readings from this new collection by 3 young local poets, including 2018 Ann Arbor Youth Poetry Slam finalist **Anika Love,** *Washtenaw Voice* (WCC) deputy editor **Lilly Kujawski,** and Ann Arbor youth poet laureate **Aldo Leopoldo Pando Girard.** Also, performances by other teen poets and musicians. Book sales. *7 p.m., Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. Tickets $20 (age 21 & under, $10; VIP, $50) in advance at conta.cc/2OX5YDl. neutral-zone.org, 214–9995.*

★"Lessons and Carols": West Side United Methodist Church. Jabarie Glass directs the church choir and U-M guest singers and musicians in this traditional English service, in which scripture readings alternate with seasonal anthems and carols. *7 p.m., West Side UMC, 900 S. Seventh St. Free. 663–4164.*

"The Nutcracker": Dance Alliance. *Dec. 15 & 16.* Lisa Darby Clark directs local dancers and members of Jazz Dance Theater in Dance Alliance's 21st annual production of Tchaikovsky's ballet. Also, at 1 p.m. on Dec. 16, **tea with the cast** (tickets $20 in advance only by phone). *7 p.m. (Sat.) & 3 p.m. (Sun.), Ellen Ewing Performing Arts Center, Saline High School, 1300 Campus Pkwy., Saline. Tickets $15 in advance at Dance Alliance & The Dancer's Boutique, and at the door. 429–9599.*

"Freaky Friday": Horizon Performing Arts. See 14 Friday. 2 & 7 p.m.

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. Martha Vander Kolk calls to live music by Luke Panning and friends. No partner needed; beginners welcome. Bring flat, smooth-soled shoes. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a lesson. *7:30–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $10 (Grange members, $7; students with ID, $5). 476–4650.*

"Trivia with Cats": Tiny Lions Lounge and Adoption Center. All age 18 & older invited to play trivia and cuddle with adoptable cats. Drinks & popcorn. Admission includes 2 beer and wine tickets (age 21 & over only). Bring your own nonalcoholic beverages, if you wish. *7:30 p.m., Tiny Lions, 5245 Jackson Rd. (ste. A1). $15. Preregistration available at tinylions.org/trivia. 661–3575.*

★"Holiday Concert": Women's Chamber Chorus. David Perample directs this independent 30-member local women's chorus in an eclectic program of holiday favorites, some with jazzy adaptations, and upbeat contemporary tunes. With pianist Joshua Marzan. *7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free; donations accepted. 665–9271.*

"Hello Dolly!": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

"The Elves and the Schumachers": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 7:30 p.m.

"Leonard Bernstein 100th Anniversary Tribute": Alvin Waddles (Kerrytown Concert House). This celebrated Detroit stride pianist performs his own jazz arrangements of popular Bernstein tunes from *West Side Story, Wonderful Town, Candide, Mass,* and more. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $15–$25 (students, $10) in advance at a2tix.com/events/12–15–2018-Alvin-waddles. Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"Diva Royale": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Joe DeVito: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 13 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Canelo vs. Rocky: Fathom Events. Live broadcast of the Super Middleweight World Championship boxing match. *9 p.m., Ann Arbor 20 (4100 Carpenter) and Emagine (1335 E. Michigan Ave., Saline). Tickets $18 & $19 in advance at fathomevents.com/events. 973–8424 (Ann Arbor 20), 316–5500 (Emagine).*

16 SUNDAY

★5th Annual Washtenaw Pick Up Robotics Championships: Ann Arbor District Library. Students from local high schools including Huron, Skyline, and Pioneer demonstrate the robots they designed and created over just a few weeks. Their large robots face off in matches, culminating in a championship round at the end of the day. *Noon–6 p.m., AADL Downtown. Free. 327–4200.*

★"Writing Workshop for Adults": Ann Arbor District Library. Local writer Rebecca Fortes, a U-M creative writing grad, leads a workshop to help participants tell their family and/or personal immigration stories. *Noon–1:30 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. 327–4200.*

★"Yoga for Beginners": Isha Foundation. All invited to try a series of 5-minute yoga practices. *1–2:30 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library 3rd floor Freespace, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. (313) 451–4742.*

★"Chesstastic!": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids and adults invited to play chess. Sets provided. *1–4 p.m., AADL Traverwood. Free. 327–4200.*

"Freaky Friday": Horizon Performing Arts. See 14 Friday. 1 p.m.

★"Paul Rand: The Designer's Task": UMMA. Docent-led tour of the current exhibit of posters, book covers, and packaging designs by this 20th-century designer with a minimalist aesthetic. *2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

★Yule Ritual: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove. All invited to celebrate the Celtic primal mother and father deities, Danu and Bel. The ritual includes singing, making an offering, and honoring ancestors and nature spirits. Followed by a potluck (bring a dish to pass) and raffle. *2–5 p.m., Ann Arbor Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. Free. 277–1897.*

"Hello Dolly!": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Elves and the Schumachers": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Diva Royale": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

★A Christmas Concert: St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church. Lucia Campbell conducts the church's adult choir and Virginia Herrmann conducts the children's choir in Christmas carols and works by Cherubini, Handel, and Beethoven. With pianist Jeanne Marie Gerig and a 10-trumpet U-M ensemble. *3 p.m., St. Thomas, 530 Elizabeth St. Free. 761–8606.*

"The Nutcracker": Dance Alliance. See 15 Saturday. 3 p.m.

★"Christmas Lessons and Carols": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. St. Andrew's music director Deborah Friauff directs the church adult choir, 2 children's choirs, and handbell choir in this traditional English service, in which 9 scripture readings alternate with seasonal anthems and carols, some sung by the congregation. *4 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663–0518.*

"Wonder and Merriment": Vocal Arts Ensemble. Benjamin Cohen directs this 24-voice chamber choir in seasonal and sacred music, including Francesco Durante's splendid *Magnificat,* familiar and unfamiliar carols, and motets by Byrd, Palestrina, Sweelinck, Bach, Britten, and Corigliano. *4 p.m., Genesis of Ann Arbor, 2309 Packard. Tickets $20 (student & senior discounts available) in advance at vocalartsannarbor.org. vocalartsannarbor@gmail.com*

★Holiday Concert: Dexter Community Orchestra. This volunteer ensemble, guest conducted by Dexter High School orchestra director Matt Deloria, is joined by the Dexter High School Concert & Chamber Orchestras in holiday music TBA. *4 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker, Dexter. Free. 355–0725.*

Joyce DiDonato: University Musical Society. *See review, p. 77.* This celebrated mezzo-soprano, winner of the 2018 Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Opera, is the "perfect 21st-century diva—an effortless combination of glamour, charisma, intelligence, grace, and remarkable talent," says a *New York Times* critic. Tonight she performs Schubert's *Winterreise (Winter Journey),* a setting of somber poems about lost love by the German poet Wilhelm Müller, typically sung by a tenor. With pianist (and Metropolitan Opera music director) **Yannick Nézet-Séguin.** *4 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $14–$70 in advance at ums.org, by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764–2538.*

"Jazzistry Jive for 25." Local saxophonist and clarinetist Vincent York leads Jazzistry, his educational jazz history ensemble, in works TBA. In celebration of Jazzistry's 25th anniversary. With multi-instrumentalist **Ron English,** trumpeter **John Douglas,** pianist **Gary Schunk,** drummer **Jesse Kramer,** bassist **Josef Deas,** and violinist **Laina Martin.** *4 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $20 in advance at theark.org. 761–1800.*

"Star Trek Puppet Show": Dreamland Theater. See 1 Saturday. 4:30 p.m.

★Comfort and Joy": Northside Community Church. Sheree and Paul Clark direct the church's chancel and bell choirs in a varied program of vocal and instrumental holiday music with spirituals. With pianist Kathryn Goodson. Reception follows. *6–8 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Dr. Free; donations accepted for a local nonprofit. 662–6351.*

★"Fireside Fun": Leslie Science and Nature Center. All invited to sit around an indoor campfire, sip hot drinks, and swap stories. If you like, bring blankets, board games, and reusable mugs. Hot cocoa and tea provided. *6:30–8 p.m., LSNC, 1831 Traver Rd. Free. 997–1553.*

"The Arcade: Improv Jam": Pointless Brewery & Theatre. All invited to play short-form improv games. No experience necessary. Spectators welcome. *7:30 p.m., Pointless Brewery & Theatre, 3014 Packard. Pay what you can. info@pointlessbrew.com, (989) 455–4484.*

Joel Schoenhals & Drew De Four: Kerrytown Concert House. EMU piano professor Schoenhals performs 2 works by his former student De Four. *Amavita* is a classical-Romantic-pop piece influ-

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enced by a trip to Auschwitz. *Piano Solos, Vol. 1* is a series of short pieces written while De Four was in high school. De Four tells personal anecdotes between each piece. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $20 (students, $10) in advance at a2tix.com/events/12–16–2018-joelschoenhalsanddrewdefour. Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

17 MONDAY

★**"A History of the English Language: The Renaissance to the 19th Century": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local storyteller **Jim Glenn** performs the 2nd part of his storytelling program on the history of English, which ranges from Shakespeare and the King James Bible to the beginnings of American English. For grade 8–adult. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Mood Lifters: A New Approach to Mental Health Care": U-M Psychology Community Talk.** Talk by U-M psychology professor Patricia Deldin. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library Downtown multipurpose rm. Free. 327–4200.*

★**Band Concert: Huron High School.** Program TBA. *7:30 p.m., HHS, 2727 Fuller. Free. 994–2040.*

18 TUESDAY

★**"Block Printing Workshop": Ann Arbor District Library.** All in grade 6–adult invited to carve a simple design onto a soft block and then stamp the design onto blank note cards. Materials provided. No experience necessary. *6:30–8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab. Free. 327–4200.*

★**Polka Jam Session.** All accordion players and other musicians invited to play polkas and waltzes and other ethnic and old-time music. *7–9 p.m., American Legion Hall, 44 Wabash St. (south off Main), Milan. Free. 529–3903.*

★**"The Bulk on Buying": People's Food Co-op.** Mary Donaldson discusses how to save money by buying in bulk. Also, tips on saving pantry space. *7–8:30 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. Free. 994–4589.*

★**"Tales and Travels": Huron Valley Sierra Club.** Club members and others show photos from their most adventurous trips. Refreshments. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free; metered parking. ritalmitchell@gmail.com, 272–5194.*

★**"Navigating Grace: The Power of Connection and Transformation": Dawn Farm Education Series.** Bestselling writer **Jeff Jay** discusses the concepts of service and altruism fundamental to 12-step recovery programs. Followed by a sale and signing of *Navigating Grace: A Solo Voyage of Survival and Redemption,* his memoir about a solo sea voyage he took as part of his addiction recovery. *7:30–9 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center auditorium, 5305 Elliott Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 485–8725.*

The Moth StorySLAM: Michigan Radio. See 4 Tuesday. Tonight's theme: **"Joy."** 7:30 p.m.

19 WEDNESDAY

"Diva Royale": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 p.m.

★**"Smell and Tell: The Storytelling Secrets of Optimus Yarnspinner": Ann Arbor District Library.** *See review, p. 81.* Local flavor and fragrance expert Michelle Krell Kydd, creator of the award-winning smell and taste blog Glass Petal Smoke, discusses incorporating scents with storytelling, an idea inspired by the protagonist of the urban fantasy series by German writer Walter Moers. *6:30–8:45 p.m., AADL Downtown 4th-floor meeting rm. Free. 327–4200.*

★**Hannah Burr: Ann Arbor District Library.** This local artist discusses the relationship between art, the artist, and the creative process. *7–8 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Christmas Stories": Channeled Spiritual Discussion Group.** All invited to discuss their spiritual and metaphysical questions with others with similar interests. The evening is led by Aaron, a "being of light" channeled by Barbara Brodsky, who offers a talk on a variety of spiritual practices. In this Christmas-themed program, Aaron tells stories of his time with Jesus. *7–9:30 p.m., Deep Spring Center, 704 Airport Blvd. Free, but donations are accepted. 477–5848.*

★**"Drummunity!"** Local drummer & drum teacher Lori Fithian leads a drum circle. Instruments provided, or bring your own. Kids welcome. Preceded at 6:45 p.m. by a brief drum lesson. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. 426–7818.*

★**Culinary History Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** All invited to discuss ***The Poison Squad,*** Deborah Blum's biography of Harvey Washington Wiley, the 19th-century chemist who fought for food regulation in the U.S. at a time when corporations were putting formaldehyde in milk and using borax to preserve meat. *7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669–0451.*

★**Choir Concert: Huron High School.** Huron student choirs perform works TBA. *7:30 p.m., HHS Meyers Auditorium, 2727 Fuller. Free. 994–2040.*

★**"Winter Sing": Pioneer High School.** Steven Lorenz directs all of the PHS student choirs—4 curricular and 9 extra-curricular—in works by Gastoldi, Mozart, Hildegard, Whitacre, Hogan, Handel, Thompson, and Tormis. *7:30 p.m., PHS Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium. Free. 994–2189, ext. 2.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 5 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

20 THURSDAY

★**Russ Collins: Jewish Community Center 3rd Thursday @ the J.** This Michigan Theater executive director discusses the **history of Michigan theaters.** *Noon–1 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. Free. Preregistration required. 971–0990.*

★**Cookie Exchange: International Neighbors.** All area women invited to bring 20 or more homemade cookies or treats. Socializing, refreshments. Child care available for kids age 5 & under. *1–2:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. 662–5723.*

★**"Raspberry Pi for Beginners": Ann Arbor District Library.** All grade 6–adult invited to learn how to use this popular, powerful, inexpensive credit-card sized Linux computer. No experience necessary. *6:30–8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab. Free. 327–4200.*

"Hello Dolly!": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 7:30 p.m.

"Diva Royale": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Dave Landau: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 20–22.* Young Detroit stand-up comic with a laid-back performing style who's known for smart, edgy observational humor that's often spiked with improvised riffs. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $11 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

21 FRIDAY

Winter Solstice Sing: Michigan Friends Center. All adults and older children invited to join an outdoor circle to learn and sing seasonal songs, rounds, and chants. *7–9 p.m., Michigan Friends Center, 7748 Clark Lake Rd., Chelsea. Donation. Preregistration requested. 475–1892.*

★**"Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Unity": Ann Arbor District Library.** U-M Afroamerican and African outreach coordinator **Elizabeth James** discusses the history and traditions of this holiday, which occurs from Dec. 26–Jan. 1. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Downtown multipurpose rm. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"6th Annual Winter Solstice Sing-Along."** Lori Fithian and Jean Chorazyczewski lead a special holiday-themed candlelit sing-along with guest musicians **Laz, San, & Emily Slomovits, Eric Fithian, Tom Voiles,** and **Linda Teaman.** Bring guitars, ukuleles, and other instruments if you'd like to jam along. Lyrics and chords are projected for singers and strummers. *7 p.m., First Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 426–7818.*

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theatre. *Dec. 21–23.* Carol Radovic directs this local dance company in Tchaikovsky's perennially popular Christmas ballet. About 100 dancers perform, ranging from children to adults—some of whom have danced in the production since they were tots. *7 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) & 1 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), Power Center. Tickets $30 (students & seniors, $25; kids age 11 & under, $15) available in advance at annarbornutcracker.org and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.*

★**"How to Be Married: What I Learned from Real Women on Five Continents About Surviving My First (Really Hard) Year of Marriage": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** All invited to join a discussion, led by Crazy Wisdom staffer Deb Flint, of journalist Jo Piazza's 2017 book. *7:30–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★**History of Science Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** All invited to discuss David Lindley's 2001 book, ***Boltzmann's Atom: The Great Debate that Launched a Revolution in Physics.*** *7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669–0451.*

"Hello Dolly!": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 7:30 p.m.

"The Elves and the Schumachers": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 7:30 p.m.

"Diva Royale": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Dave Landau: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 20 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

22 SATURDAY

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theatre. See 21 Friday. 1 & 7 p.m.

"Hello Dolly!": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

"The Elves and the Schumachers": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 7:30 p.m.

"Winter Solstice Meditation Concert": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704 Coffeehouse. Candlelit performance by local soprano **Norma Gentile,** who begins with sacred chants by Hildegard von Bingen, then improvises chants inspired by the energies in the room. She's joined by harmonium and tambora player Atmaram Chaitanya and Tibetan bowls and gong player Nathan Correll. *8–9:30 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. $20 requested donation. 327–0270.*

Thunderwüde: Stony Lake Brewing Acoustic Routes Concert. Bluegrass and related roots music by the popular Chelsea trio of guitarists Jason Dennie and George Merkel and multi-instrumentalist Wes Fritzemeier. *8 p.m., Stony Lake Brewing, 447 E. Michigan Ave., Saline. $15 at the door only. 316–7919.*

"Diva Royale": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Dave Landau: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 20 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

23 SUNDAY

"The Nutcracker": Fathom Events. Broadcast of today's **Bolshoi Ballet** production of Tchaikovsky's perennially popular Christmas ballet. *12:55 p.m., Quality 16 (3686 Jackson), Ann Arbor 20 (4100 Carpenter), Emagine (1335 E. Michigan Ave., Saline). Tickets $17 & $18 in advance at fathomevents.com/events. 623–7469 (Quality 16), 973–8424 (Ann Arbor 20), 316–5500 (Emagine).*

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theatre. See 21 Friday. 1 p.m.

"The Nutcracker": University Musical Society. Broadcast of today's **Bolshoi Ballet** production of Tchaikovsky's perennially popular Christmas ballet. *2 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $22 (MTF members, $18) in advance at ums.org, by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764–2538.*

"Hello Dolly!": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Elves and the Schumachers": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Diva Royale": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

24 MONDAY

★**Living Nativity: First Congregational Church.** Costumed reenactors present the traditional Nativity scene, outfitted with live goats, sheep, and a camel & a donkey. Also, a **Children's Christmas Pageant** (5:30 p.m.) with animals. *4–8 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William at State. Free. 662–1679.*

★**Lessons and Carols: First Presbyterian Church.** The traditional program of scripture readings interspersed with congregational carol singing led by the church's chancel choir. *5 & 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

★**"Silent Night": Northside Community Church.** A kid-friendly celebration of Christmas stories and music highlighted by tenor Glenn Perry's performance of "O Holy Night" and a singing of "Silent Night" in the round. *6 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Dr. Free. 662–6351.*

★**"A Musical Prelude to Worship": Zion Lutheran Church.** Zion's chancel choir, handbell choir, praise band, and vocal and instrumental soloists present a program of music celebrating the birth of Christ. *6:15–7 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. 994–4455.*

★**Festival of Lessons and Carols: First Baptist Church.** The church presents the Christmas story through a program of alternating scriptural readings and choral and congregational singing adapted from the famous Christmas Eve service at King's College, Cambridge (England). Kids welcome; child care provided for infants and toddlers. *7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free. 663–9376.*

★**"Christmas Eve Festival Prelude": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** St. Andrew's music director Deborah Friauff directs the church's adult choir and Baroque Chamber Orchestra in Dieterich Buxtehude's *The Infant Jesus* and *In Dulci Jubilo.* Also, separate programs by the orchestra and the handbell choir. *10 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663–0518.*

25 TUESDAY (CHRISTMAS)

26 WEDNESDAY

"Diva Royale": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 5 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

27 THURSDAY

"Cheese 101": Zingerman's Creamery. Discussion & tastings of the 7 major varieties of cheese, with bread and other accompaniments. *3–5 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. $40. Reservations required. 929–0500.*

"Diva Royale": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Jackie Kashian: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 27–29.* This veteran Milwaukee-bred stand-up comic is a frequent performer on cable TV who has also had her own Comedy Central special. Her act blends storytelling with sharp commentary on a mix of momentous and trivial topics. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. $11 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $13 (Thurs.) & $16 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

28 FRIDAY

"The Elves and the Schumachers": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 7:30 p.m.

"Diva Royale": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Jackie Kashian: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 27 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

29 SATURDAY

"The Elves and the Schumachers": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 7:30 p.m.

"Diva Royale": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Jackie Kashian: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 27 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

30 SUNDAY

★**"Thank You Card Party": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to write, draw, and decorate thank you cards. *1–3 p.m., AADL Downtown Secret Lab. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Winter Tree & Shrub ID": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Shawn Severance leads a hike to learn how to identify trees and shrubs from their twigs, buds, and bark. Also, a chance to see animal tracks if there's snow. *2–4 p.m., Scio Woods Preserve, 4000 Scio Church Rd. Free. 971–6337.*

★**"The Greek Interpreter": The Arcadia Mixture Sherlock Holmes Club.** All invited to discuss Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes story that introduces Sherlock's brother Mycroft. Also, a quiz. *2 p.m., Classic Cup Café, 4389 Jackson. Free (buy your own food). rpl@umich.edu*

"The Elves and the Schumachers": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

Jackie Kashian: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 27 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

31 MONDAY (NEW YEAR'S EVE)

"New Year's Eve with the Pete Siers Duo": Kerrytown Concert House. Local drummer Siers and nationally renowned local boogie-woogie and blues pianist **Mark "Mr. B" Braun** perform their blend of blues, boogie-woogie, R&B, and early rock 'n' roll. With guest musicians TBA. *7 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $20–$45 (students, $10). Reservations recommended. a2tix.com/events/12-31-2018-nye-with-pete-siers/tickets, 769–2999.*

"New Year's Eve with K-Von": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Kevan "K-von" Moezzi is a stand-up comic and actor, best known for his appearances on *Last Comic Standing* and MTV's *Disaster Date* and through his popular YouTube channel. His comedy draws heavily on the cultural and generational conflicts arising from his Persian American heritage. The 10:30 p.m. show includes party favors & champagne at midnight. *8 & 10:30 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. $25 (8 p.m.) & $30 (10:30 p.m.) reserved seating in advance & at the door. 996–9080.*

"New Year's Eve Improv Show": Pointless Brewery & Theatre. Live music, storytelling, and comedic improv by the League of Pointless Improvisers. *8 & 10:30 p.m., Pointless Brewery & Theatre, 3014 Packard. Tickets $15 (8 p.m.) & $18 (10:30 p.m.) in advance at pointlessbrew.com and at the door. (989) 455–4484.*

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Friday, January 4,
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Towsley Auditorium,
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After Five
Informal learning in a congenial group setting. No membership fee required. Kellogg Eye Center Auditorium, 1000 Wall St., Ann Arbor, $10

Wednesday, December 5,
7:00-8:30 p.m.
Teaching in Michigan: It's Complicated
with Daniel J. Quinn, Ph.D.

Lecture Series
OLLI Lectures at WCC, Towsley Auditorium, Morris Lawrence Building, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor

Thursday Morning Lecture Series
The Future of Work: How will your Grandkids make a Living?
January 3 – February 7,
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
$30 series of 6, $10-day pass

Distinguished Lecture Series
One Tuesday per month,
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
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Tuesday, December 11
The Trump Administration and the Middle East: Dissecting the Chaos
with Saeed A. Khan

Tuesday, January 8
What to Expect in Health Policy After the 2018 Election
with John Z. Ayanian

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AADL: Ann Arbor District Library 327–4200. Events (all free) offered at **Downtown** (343 S. Fifth Ave.), **Westgate** (Westgate shopping center), **Traverwood** (3333 Traverwood), **Malletts Creek** (3090 E. Eisenhower), and **Pittsfield** (2359 Oak Valley) branches.

AAHOM: Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. 995–9439. All events free (except as noted) with regular admission: $12.50 (members & kids under age 2, free).

HSHV: Humane Society of Huron Valley, 3100 Cherry Hill Rd. Events also hosted at **Tiny Lions** Lounge & Adoption Center (5245 Jackson, ste. A1). hshv.org, 661–3575.

LSNC: Leslie Science & Nature Center, 1831 Traver. $5 per kid (members, $4), adults & kids under 12 months, free. 997–1553.

Nicola's: Nicola's Books. Westgate shopping center. Free events. 662–0600.

UMMA, 525 S. State. All events free. 764–0395.

WCPARC: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. All events free. Preregistration required at parksonline.ewashtenaw.org. 971–6337.

Zingerman's: Zingerman's Deli Upstairs. 422 Detroit St. $15 per kid includes tastings; parents welcome to lurk for free. 663–3354.

Every Sun., except Dec. 23 & 30 (1–2 p.m.): **"Drawing for Kids": AADL.** Ann Arbor Art Center artists host a different directed drawing activity each week for kids in grades 1–5. *Downtown 4th fl. meeting rm. (Dec. 2 & 16), Malletts Creek (Dec. 9).*

Every Sun. (2–3:30 p.m.): **"Minecraft Workshop": AADL Downtown Training Center.** All in grades 3–8 invited to try out this popular computer game that involves constructing things with virtual blocks. Participants work as a team to build and landscape, solve puzzles, battle monsters, and create a new virtual world. New & experienced players welcome.

Every Mon.–Fri., except Dec. 24 & 25: **"Playgroups for Babies": AADL.** Playgroup for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. *Mon. 10:30–11:30 a.m. except Dec. 24 (**Downtown**); Tues. 10–11 a.m. except Dec. 25 (**Malletts Creek**); Wed. 11 a.m.–noon (**Pittsfield**); Thurs. 2–3 p.m. (**Westgate**) & 6:30–7:30 p.m. (**Malletts Creek**); Fri. 10:30–11:30 a.m. (**Traverwood**).*

Every Mon.–Fri., except Dec. 24 & 25: **Preschool Storytimes: AADL.** Stories and songs for kids ages 2–5 (accompanied by an adult). *Mon. 11–11:30 a.m. except Dec. 24 (**Westgate**); Tues. 10–10:30 a.m. except Dec. 25 (**Downtown**) & 11–11:30 a.m. (**Traverwood**); Wed. 10–10:30 a.m. (**Malletts Creek**), 11–11:30 a.m. (**Downtown**), & 6–6:30 p.m. (**Traverwood**); Thurs. 10–10:30 a.m. (**Traverwood**) & 7–7:30 p.m. (**Pittsfield**); Fri. 10–10:30 a.m. (**Westgate & Pittsfield**).*

Every Tues. (9:30 a.m.) & Sat. (10:30 a.m.), except Dec. 25: **"The Little Scientist Club": AAHOM.** Crafts, science-themed stories, and hands-on activities for young kids, accompanied by a parent. Geared toward kids ages 3–6; older siblings welcome.

Every Wed. and Sun., except Dec. 9, 23, 26, & 30 (10–11 a.m.): **"Nature Storytime": LSNC.** Kids ages 1–5 (accompanied by a caregiver) invited for a program of stories and nature-based activities on different themes. *Dec. 2 & 5:* **"Stories in the Snow: Animal Prints."** *Dec. 12:* **"Stories in the Snow: Brr! It's Cold!"** *Dec. 16 & 19:* **"Stories in the Snow: Snow Day!"**

Every Thurs. (10:30 a.m.): **"Little Paws Story Time": HSHV.** Stories, crafts, finger plays, and interaction with adoptable cats. Also, a chance to make a toy or treat for the animals. For kids ages 2–5, accompanied by an adult. *$5 per child (babies under age 1, free).*

Every Sat. (11 a.m.): **Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble.** Storytelling programs and occasional craft activities for kids age 3 & up. *3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–0846.*

Every Sat. (11 a.m.): **Story Time: Bookbound.** Linda Zimmer reads seasonal stories for kids age 6 & under. *Bookbound, 1729 Plymouth. Free. 369–4345.*

Daily through Dec. 24: **Santa: Briarwood.** All kids invited to have their photo taken with Santa. On Dec. 2, **"Caring Santa"** offers "sensory friendly" visits with Santa for kids with special needs; held when the mall is closed (9–10:30 a.m.) to create a calmer environment. Dec. 9 is **"Pet Photo Night"** (6:30–8 p.m.); all invited to bring 4-legged, leashed, friendly pets that weigh less than 60 lbs. to have their photo taken with Santa. *Note:* Santa takes breaks 1–2 p.m. & 5–6 p.m. Mon.–Sat. *10 a.m.–8:30 p.m. (Sat.), 11 a.m.–6 p.m. (Sun.), & 10 a.m.–8 p.m. (Mon.–Fri.), Briarwood Von Maur court. Free (photos available for purchase; "fast passes" to avoid lines available with photo package purchase at simon.com/mall/briarwood-mall/stores/santa-photo-experience). 769–9610.*

Nov. 30 & Dec. 1–2 & 6–9: **"James and the Giant Peach": EMU Theatre of the Young.** EMU theater professor Christine Tanner directs EMU drama students in David Wood's theatrical adaptation of Roald Dahl's fantasy novel about an orphaned boy left with 2 cruel aunts. After being rescued by a mysterious fellow, the boy ends up drifting across the Atlantic in a giant peach in the company of a variety of engaging anthropomorphized insects. For ages 6 & up. *7 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), EMU Quirk Theater, Quirk Hall, Ypsilanti. Tickets $18 (seniors, $14, kids 12 & under, $7) in advance emich.edu/cmta/productions/2018season/jamesandthegiantpeach and at the door. 487–2282.*

Dec. 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, & 22: **"Santa Visits Kerrytown": Kerrytown Market and Shops.** All kids invited to meet Santa. On Saturdays only, Humans of Ann Arbor photographer Susan K. Campbell is on hand to take photos, which will be posted online to download. New this year, an app that allows families to save their spot in line. *10 a.m.–2 p.m. (Sat.) & 1–3 p.m. (Sun.), Kerrytown Market & Shops upstairs. Free; nonperishable food donations for Food Gatherers are welcome. 662–5008.*

Dec. 1 (11:15 a.m.–noon): **"Storytime at the Museum": UMMA.** A U-M student docent reads a story related to art on display. Followed by a short craft activity. For kids ages 3–6 accompanied by a parent. Siblings welcome. *UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

Dec. 1 (11:30 a.m.): **"Ninja Obstacle Course": Keith Hafner's Karate.** Kids ages 3–5, accompanied by a parent, invited to try out this agility and balance course. *214 S. Main. Free; preregistration required at hafnertown.com. 994–0333.*

Dec. 1 & 2 (1 & 3 p.m.): **"Professor Ray's Everyday Science: Electron-eek!": AAHOM.** Science demos and experiments involving electricity.

Dec. 2 (noon–4 p.m.): **"U-M STEM Society Pop-Up": AAHOM.** U-M students lead science activities, including extracting DNA from cheek cells, testing pH levels of household substances, and more.

Dec. 2 (1:30 p.m.): **"Rosie Revere, Engineer": Theatreworks USA (Michigan Theater Foundation Not Just for Kids Series).** This renowned NYC–based children's theater troupe performs its hour-long musical based on Andrea Beaty's bestselling kids books—*Rosie Revere, Engineer; Iggy Peck, Architect;* and *Ada Twist, Scientist*—featuring characters involved in science, technology, engineering, and math. Recommended for theatergoers in grades K–4 & their families. *Michigan Theater. Tickets $13 (MTF members, $11) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (800) 745–3000.*

Dec. 2 (2 p.m.): **"Kerry Tales: Old King Cole and Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops.** 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and stories with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. *2 p.m., Hollander's, 410 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 769–3115.*

Dec. 3, 10, & 17 (9:45–10:30 a.m.): **"Tiny Toes & Tails Yoga": Tiny Lions.** Songs, stories, games, yoga, and a chance to interact with adoptable cats. For kids ages 2–5, accompanied by a caregiver. *$15 per caregiver/child pair (additional kids, $3 each). Preregistration required.*

Dec. 4, 11, 15, & 18 (10–11 a.m.): **"Tummy Times": AADL Westgate.** New and expecting parents encouraged to bring their babies and discuss new baby experiences.

Dec. 6–9: **"A Christmas Carol": Wild Swan Theater.** This award-winning local children's theater company performs Wild Swan co-artistic director Hilary Cohen's musical adaptation of the Dickens Christmas classic about the transformation of crabbed old Ebenezer Scrooge after he's visited by 3 spirits on the night before Christmas. Appropriate for kids in grade 3 & up. As with all Wild Swan productions, the performance is interpreted in American Sign Language. Audio description and backstage "touch" tours are available for blind audience members by prearrangement. *10 a.m. (Thurs. & Fri.), 12:30 p.m. (Fri.), & 2 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium,*

kids calendar

4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $15 (seniors age 60 & over and kids, $12) in advance at wildswantheater.org and at the door. 995–0530.

Dec. 7 (6–8 p.m.): **"Under the Sea Daddy Daughter Dance": Pittsfield Township Parks & Recreation.** Girls ages 5–12, accompanied by a dad, grandfather, uncle, or other man, invited for dancing to recorded music. Light refreshments and a souvenir. *Pittsfield Twp. Community Center, 701 Ellsworth. $40 (Pittsfield Twp. residents, $35). Preregistration required at recreation.pittsfield-mi.gov or at 822–2117.*

Dec. 7 (7 p.m.): **"Polar Express Pajama Storytime": Barnes & Noble.** Barnes & Noble staff present an interactive reading of Chris Van Allsburg's Caldecott Medal–winning tale of a magical train ride on Christmas Eve. Also, craft activities for kids age 3 & up, who are invited to come in bedtime attire (complete with pillows and stuffed animals). *3235 Washtenaw. Free; reservations required. 973–0846.*

Dec. 7–9: **"The Girl with the Golden Locks": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Junior Theatre.** Briana O'Neal directs young local actors in Brian D. Taylor's comedy about Fairytale Bureau of Intelligence (FBI) agents Gold, Rose Red, and Snow White who take on Public Enemy No. 1: the 3 Bears. *7:30 p.m. (Fri.) and 1 & 3:30 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), Scarlett Middle School Auditorium, 3300 Lorraine. Tickets $10 (students, $8) in advance at a2ct.org. 971–2228.*

Dec. 8 (10 a.m.–noon): **"Bugs Don't Bug Me!": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens.** Kids ages 5–11, accompanied by a parent, invited to learn about insects and make a bug ornament to take home. *Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro. $10 per child; preregistration recommended. Metered parking. 647–7600.*

Dec. 8 (10 a.m.–4 p.m.) & 9 (1–4 p.m.): **"Critters Up Close!": AAHOM.** Leslie Science & Nature Center staff show live **hawks & falcons.** Also, animal-oriented hands-on activities. *Note:* On Saturday, a midday "Animal Naptime" break when the animals get tired.

Dec. 8 (2–3 p.m.): **"Read and Look: *Bill and Pete Go Down the Nile*": U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.** A docent reads Tomie dePaola's picture book about a crocodile and his bird friend on a field trip to the Cairo Museum. Followed by a tour of the museum's Egyptian exhibits. For kids ages 4–8, accompanied by an adult.

Dec. 9 (10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.): **"Santa Central": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs.** Kids invited to visit with Santa, make seasonal crafts, and go on a hayride. Snack. Photos with Santa (bring your own camera). *Hudson Mills Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. $5 per person. Preregistration required. $10 vehicle entrance fee. 426–8211.*

Dec. 9 (1–3 p.m.): **"Make-Your-Own Shadow Puppet Family": U-M Center for Southeast Asian Studies.** Craft activity for families with kids ages 5–12. *UMMA multipurpose rm., 525 S. State. Free; reservations required. cseas@umich.edu, 764–0352.*

Dec. 13 (10–11 a.m.): **"Preschool Hike: Once There Was a Tree": WCPARC.** Shawn Severance leads a hike for kids ages 2–4 (accompanied by a caregiver) to visit the largest tree at Parker Mill County Park, leaving small solstice presents along the way for forest animals. *Parker Mill, 4650 Geddes. Preregistration required.*

Dec. 14 (10:30–11:15 a.m.): **"Sensation Stations": AADL Downtown multipurpose rm.** All toddlers ages 18 months–3 years invited to drop in to engage their senses by scooping, pouring, squeezing, and shaking a variety of materials.

Dec. 14 (5:30–6:30 p.m.): **"Just for Kids: Explore the World of Hot Cocoa": Zingerman's.** Staffers discuss different types of cocoa, and whether whipped cream or marshmallows is the better topping. Tastings.

Dec. 15 (10 a.m.–4 p.m.): **"Student Showcase: Hammerheads FIRST Robotics Team": AAHOM.** Students from Troy and Athens (Troy) high schools show and discuss their robots.

Dec. 15 (10 a.m.–4 p.m.) & 16 (noon–4 p.m.): **"Pop-Up Makerspace": AAHOM.** Hands-on engineering activity. This month's challenge**: "Paper Engineering!"**

Dec. 15 (10–10:40 a.m.): **"Dancing Babies": AADL Malletts Creek.** Music Together teacher Dianne Dudley leads infants through 5-year-olds (accompanied by an adult) in a program of music and movement.

Dec. 15 (10:30 a.m.–noon): **"Winter Crafts": AADL Pittsfield.** Craft projects for kids in grades K–5.

Dec. 15 (2–3 p.m.): **"Graham Cracker Gingerbread Houses": AADL Downtown multipurpose rm.** All kids in grades preK–8 invited to make gingerbread houses out of graham crackers, icing, and candy.

Dec. 15 (5–10 p.m.): **"Parents Night Out: Wild Winter Woods": LSNC.** Kids in grades K–6 invited to interact with the center's resident animals and test their own survival skills in games and challenges. Also, a Panera PB&J or turkey sandwich and a late-night popcorn snack. Activities held outdoors as much as possible, so kids should come dressed for the weather. *5:30–10 p.m. $30 (members, $25) per child. Registration required by noon on Dec. 12.*

Dec. 16 (2–4 p.m.): **Family Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange.** Callers lead contras and square dances to live music. For kids accompanied by an adult. Followed by refreshments. *Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $12 per family (members, free). 274–0773, 395–1690.*

Dec. 16 (2–2:30 p.m.): **"Beary Sweet Storytime": AADL Pittsfield.** Bear-themed storytime for kids in grades preK–3.

Dec. 17 (10:30–11 a.m.): **"Preschool Art Start": AADL Traverwood.** Craft projects for kids ages 2–5, accompanied by an adult. Siblings welcome.

Dec. 21 (10:30–11:30 a.m.): **"Just for Younger Kids: Storytime Tasting": Zingerman's.** Kids ages 2–5, accompanied by a caregiver, invited to listen to a food-themed story. Snack provided.

Dec. 21 (5–9 p.m.): **"Pets & Pajamas Movie Night": HSHV.** Kids ages 5–11 invited to watch ***Wall-E,*** Andrew Stanton's touching 2008 animation about a robot designed to clean up a polluted Earth that's been evacuated by humans. Also, a chance to interact with adoptable pets. Pizza dinner. Wear pajamas and bring a sleeping bag and pillow. *$35 ($15 for each additional sibling). Preregistration required at hshv.org.*

Dec. 22–31, except Dec. 24 & 25: **"Hands-On Holidays": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum.** Family-friendly hands-on activities and demonstrations. With live entertainment each day, including the Farmington **Aim High Flyers** high school pop-rock band (Dec. 22, 11 a.m., noon, & 2:30 p.m.), Beverly Meyer, **"The Music Lady"** (Dec. 26 & 31, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.), **"Mr. Dan's Music Show"** (Dec. 27 & 28, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.), local multi-instrumentalist **Ken Kozora's "Electro Music Magic!"** (Dec. 29 & 30, 1 & 3 p.m.). Also, Dec. 26–Jan. 6, **"Hackathon: Games!"** (10 a.m.–4 p.m., except Dec. 30 and Jan. 1 & 6, noon–4 p.m.) features hands-on activities with video games and board games. *10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Mon.–Sat.) & noon–4 p.m. (Sun.), AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. $12 (members & infants, free) regular museum admission. 995–5439.*

Dec. 22 (1–1:30 p.m.): **"Winter Ballet Storytime!": AADL Pittsfield.** Storytelling program, with movement and music, celebrating the art of ballet. For kids in grades preK–2.

Dec. 23 (2–3 p.m.): **"Cozy Collage Craft": AADL Downtown Secret Lab.** Kids in grades preK–3 invited to bring friends and family to make collages.

Dec. 27 (1–2 p.m.): **"Coloring Party: Mary Poppins!": AADL Malletts Creek.** Kids in grades K–5 invited to celebrate the release of the new Mary Poppins movie with music, crafts, and activities.

Dec. 28 (7:30 p.m.): **"Family Mew-Vie Night": Tiny Lions.** Screening of ***Zootopia,*** the charming 2016 animation about a bunny who dreams of being a cop in a world where predators hold most positions of power. Also, snuggles with adoptable cats. Popcorn, juice, and water. Kids must be accompanied by an adult (at least 1 for every 3 kids). Bring pillows, sleeping bags, and blankets, if you wish. This event usually sells out. *$10 in advance at tinylions.org/mewvienights.*

Dec. 29 (10–11 a.m.): **"Sensory Storytime": AADL Westgate.** A "sensory friendly" event for kids ages 3–7 with developmental disabilities. Includes 20 minutes of interactive stories & movement, followed by 40 minutes of free play.

Dec. 29 (1–2 p.m.): **"Tiny Pipe Cleaner Creations": AADL Downtown multipurpose rm.** Craft activity for all kids in grades K–5.

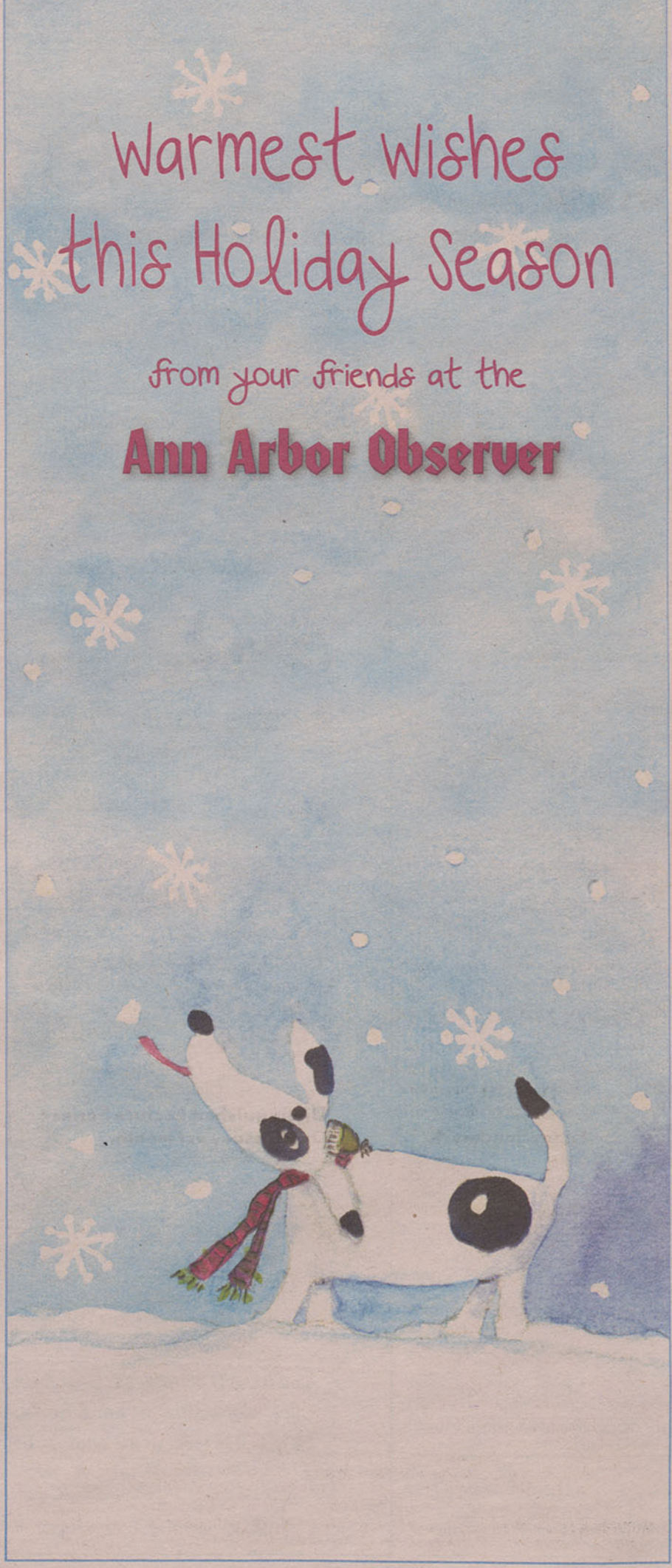
Dec. 29 (2–3 p.m.): **"Kinetic Sandbox!": AADL Traverwood.** All kids in grades preK–5 invited for free play with the modeling toy Kinetic Sand. Molds provided.

Dec. 31 (11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.): **"Noon Year's Eve Party!": AADL Traverwood.** AADL storytellers present a program of holiday-themed stories for kids ages 2–5 and their families. Also, games, music, and a balloon drop at noon.

Warmest wishes this Holiday Season

from your friends at the

Ann Arbor Observer



Classifieds

Notices

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

BENZ FAMILY – Erwin J. Benz died Oct 30, 1941 in airplane crash, Canada. Info on recent memorial dedication (no cost): Email cooper.dic266@gmail.com

Wanted

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

Sr. Engineer—engine calibration development for on-board diagnostics. Send resume to headquarters: Toyota (Attn: Dina Moore), Code: MI, 6565 Headquarters Dr., Plano, TX 75024

Allied Universal is hiring FT/PT Security Officers in Ann Arbor/ Saline. ALL Shifts available. Pay varies from $10–12/hr. High school diploma/ GED req'd. Must pass a background check and drug/alcohol test. Please apply online: https://jobs.aus.com/ job #2018-242451 or 2018-242455. For questions, please call our Staffing Specialist, Lily Kader (248) 234–1959.

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For Rent

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

Climate Control Indoor Storage 490 S. Maple Rd. Ann Arbor MI 48103. Next to Westgate Kroger. (734) 662–5262

Miscellaneous

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

Non-Denominational Officiant
Weddings, Renewal of Vows, Affirmations of Love, House Blessings, Family/ Friend/Pet Funerals, Bon Voyage Parties
Rev. Linda (734) 217–9921
Voice message w/ name, number, please.

I SPY CONTEST
Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 95? If you can, you could win a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, December 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, AA 48103. Fax: 769–3375; email: backpage@aaobserver.com (put I Spy in the subject line).

FAKE AD CONTEST
Can you find the fake ad in this issue of the Observer? If you can, you could win a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue! One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, December 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: backpage@aaobserver.com or write to: 2390 Winewood, AA 48103.

Ann Arbor's only real problem is that it has no real problem—a perilous position.

Services

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

Home

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

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Handyman for All Seasons
Drywall, painting, furniture repair, fix leaks, repair outlets, etc. Jared at (734) 223–5622 or jdwarshuis@gmail.com.

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Office: (734) 769-3175, Fax: (734) 769-3375
Email: classifieds@aaobserver.com

Please include your name and contact information.

We reserve the right to reject, cancel, or modify any advertising and to determine the classification of individual ads.

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Thanks for reading the Observer.

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Garcia
Publisher

All new "Observer Friends" and FREE subscription confirmations received by **December 10** will be entered in a drawing for a **$25 Gift Certificate** at your choice of any business advertising in the Observer.

☐ **Yes!** I am a resident of the Ann Arbor Public School District and I want to continue receiving the Ann Arbor Observer and City Guide free of charge. Enter me in the $25 Gift Certificate drawing!

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911 Olivia Ave., Ann Arbor—Meadowlark Builders pronounced it "Fit for a Queen," and rightly so! This 1894 Queen Anne Victorian stays true to its roots and has all of today's must haves. Set on Professor's Row, 911 Olivia has been home to several U-M notables over the years. In 2014, the current owners began a "to the studs" restoration that includes an addition. The result, a 4,068 SF, 6 bed, 4.1 bath home with an open feel - 3 floors, 2 staircases, 839 SF of finished basement with egress, new electrical, plumbing, insulation, baths, windows, and exquisite finishes. The Cook's Kitchen will delight with marble counters, big island, Thermador range & ovens, Sub-Zero fridge, and large walk-in pantry with sink and 2nd dishwasher. A family room, with coffered ceiling and new gas stove, opens to the kitchen & breakfast nook. Large windows and fireplace with period surround create warm, bright living & dining spaces. Upstairs, find a new master suite, 2 full baths, laundry, and 4 more bedrooms - the 3rd floor is a great visitors' space. The basement has a 6th bedroom, bath, 2nd laundry, and new wine room. The front porch & brick paver patio provide nice outdoor spaces. In 2018, a new two story 2.5 car garage was built to match - the perfect finishing touch! $1,699,000. #3261243

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MARKET UPDATE – December 2018

Wow!! What a year in Real Estate. The 2018 selling season is winding down and this year may go on the books as the strongest year ever for Ann Arbor real estate. Driven by demand to live in our wonderful community and outstanding neighborhoods, home values reached their highest level ever in many areas. 2019 will bring more of the same. Are you thinking of buying or selling in 2019? Call me today for a private consultation, 734-476-7100.

SELLERS – The value of your home is at its highest level since 2007. Demand for your home is at the highest level since 2004. But this market is far from "easy". The issues of pricing, managing multiple offers, and successfully appraising the home with the buyer's lender are more complex than ever. It takes an experienced agent with an effective strategy to successfully sell your home and get it closed. Please call me to discuss your situation today. 734-476-7100.

BUYERS – Word on the street is that there are no quality homes to buy. Somehow I manage to lead the county in closed buyer sales year to date. I have been successful in finding the best homes available for most of my buyers (not all, sorry). The process of home selection, offer strategy, and financing are a challenge. You need an experienced agent in your corner to find the right house and successfully close. Call me today to start your search. 734-476-7100.

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ANN ARBOR HILLS – This 5-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath Custom built estate is one of the finest homes in Ann Arbor. The 2-acre setting is breathtaking. The gounds include extensive landscaping, incredible outdoor living patios, and the finest pool you will see. The home was built to the highest standard of design, materials, and craftsmanship. Highlights include gormet kitchen with pro-grade appliance, dramatic living spaces, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. Incredible!! $1,995,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

WOODLANDS OF GEDDES GLEN – This brand new, custom-built 5-bedroom, 5 1/2-bath Toll Brothers home features only the finest in design, materials, and craftsmanship. Located on one of the best lots in the neighborhood, backing to Radrick Farms, the exterior features covered patio with outdoor fireplace, wooded backyard, and extensive landscaping. The interior is showpiece with two-story great room with stacked stone fireplace, gourmet kitchen with Wolf range, Solarium, luxury master suite, and 4 additional bedrooms with private baths. $1,749,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NE ANN ARBOR – This 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath Frank Llyod Wright inspired contemporary home is a pure masterpiece of design and materials. Estate setting with 8-acres of the most beautiful land you will find. Includes extensive landscaping with a flowing stream, stone patio, and pond. The home highlights include soaring ceilings, dramatic slate fireplace, stone flooring, gourmet kitchen, luxury master suite, and finished walkout lower level. $1,095,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

HIGH RIDGE CONDO – Luxury 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath detached condo on Ann Arbor's NE side. You will love this easy living complex just minutes to NCRC and all hospitals. This unit is gorgeous inside and out. Highlights include private setting with view of mature trees, Brazilian cherry floors in most rooms, custom kitchen, great room with 10' ceiling, luxury master suite, and great flex-use bonus space. $995,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – You will love the best view in Stonebridge from this custom-built 5-bedroom, 4 ½-bath home. The lot features panoramic views #4 Par 3 hole and a gorgeous pond. The interior of this home sparkles and features two-story living room with wall of glass to the water, gourmet kitchen with granite counter tops, luxury first floor master suite, huge kids' bedrooms, and finished walkout basement with rec room, bedroom, bath, and workout. $769,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Stunning 5-bedroom, 4 ½-bath custom-built home resting on one of the nicest settings you will see anywhere. The setting here is truly special with views of a deep ravine, stream, and mature forest. Interior features include two-story great room with fireplace, cherry kitchen with granite counter tops, luxury master suite with sitting room and spa-like bath, and finished walkout basement. $769,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – STONEBRIDGE CONDO – This gorgeous 3-bedroom, 3-bath detached condo has been beautifully remodeled and backs to a wooded, protected common area. You will love the peaceful setting of this unit with three season porch and large deck. The interior features hardwood floor throughout the main level, great room with vaulted ceiling, custom kitchen with Viking appliances, luxury main level master suite, and finished lower level with view-out windows. $489,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Wonderful 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath Landau-built colonial in Lodi Glen Estates. This home includes one of the nicest outbuildings you will see with RV door, extra storage, and heated workshop. The acre plus lot is private with mature trees, large deck, hot tub, and 3-season porch. The interior sparkles with updated kitchen, family room with fireplace, main floor den, and large master suite with remodeled bath. $489,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

EBERWHITE – Completely renovated 3-bedroom, 3-bath Cape Cod style home in the heart of one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. You will love being walking distance to schools, stores, and downtown. This home has been completely updated including new kitchen with white cabinets, quartz counter tops, and new stainless steel appliances, spacious living room, two flex-use bedrooms on the first floor, upstairs master with full bath and walk-in closet, and finished basement. $389,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

WILDWOOD – This 2-bedroom, 20-bath Northside Glen condo may be the finest condo to hit the market this year. The interior of this unit has been completely renovated. Features include renovated kitchen with granite counter tops and high-end stainless steel appliances, open living room with raised ceilings, luxury master suite with renovated bath, and flex-use 2nd bedroom with additional renovated bath. $339,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

UM CENTRAL CAMPUS – 8-unit rental property just steps from University of Michigan Central Campus. This perfect property features four 2-bedoom units, 2 one-bedroom units, and 2 efficiency apartments. The property is 100% rented for 18-19 school year and also includes 10 additional parking spots for rent. Large lot with much potential. $1,495,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

KING ELEMENTARY – Stunning 6-bedroom, 4 ½-bath custom-built home resting on one of the most beautiful sites you will find in Ann Arbor. This home features a backyard paradise with water views from the large deck and almost every room in the home. The interior represents only the finest in design, materials, and craftsmanship. Features include two-story great room, open concept cherry kitchen with professional-grade appliances, luxury master suite with spa-like bath, great kids' bedrooms, and finished walkout basement. $1,395,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NE ANN ARBOR – Stunning, custom-built 4-bedroom, 4-bath contemporary overlooking the Huron River Valley. This home was built to standard rarely seen in Ann Arbor. The best materials, design, and craftsmanship is evident inside and out if this true work of art. Highlights include wooded 2.3-acre lot, walls of glass that bring the outside in, light-filled great room, custom kitchen, and dream master suite. $1,225,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR HILLS – Stunning 4-bedroom, 4-bath, 2 ½-bath custom-built home by Landau on a gorgeous, wooded ¾-acre site in Ann Arbor Hills. This home rests on one of the most beautiful settings you will see with towering oaks, multiple decks, and great privacy. This all-brick home features a cherry kitchen with stainless steel appliances, family room with fireplace, oversized screened porch, ample hardwood floors, great master suite, and finished walkout basement. $1,195,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

PINES AT LAKE FOREST – Custom design and build 5-bedroom, four ½-bath home just minutes from everything. You will not see a finer combination of design, materials, and setting on the market. The setting is special with a panoramic view of a common area forest. Highlights include all brick exterior, cherry kitchen with granite and professional grade appliances, all hardwood floors on main level, luxury master suite, and finished basement with rec room, bedroom, and bath. $899,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

YORK WOODS – Enjoy lakefront living year-round from this custom-built 4-bedroom, 4 ½-bath Holley built home. The setting is spectacular with panoramic water views from almost every room in the home. Highlights include spacious acre lot, large deck, great room with wall of glass to the water, custom kitchen, open concept family room, first floor master bedroom, and finished walkout basement. $899,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – Custom-built 5-bedroom, 4 ½-bath two-story home on a quiet cul-de-sac lot with Saline Schools. This stately home is gorgeous inside and out. You will love the extensive landscaping, large deck, and spacious backyard. The interior includes two-story family room with wall glass, dream kitchen with cherry cabinets and granite, luxury master suite, great kids' bedrooms, and finished walkout basement with bar, rec room, and bath. $799,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEWPORT CREEK – Stunning 4-bedroom, 4 ½-bath custom-built by David Prentice in one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. Great setting on a quiet lane with mature trees, large grassy yard, and great landscaping. Interior highlights include two-story living room, custom cherry kitchen with Viking Range, open concept family room with fireplace, den, luxury first floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. $779,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Incredible 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath custom-built home by Holley Development on 7 peaceful acres just minutes from Ann Arbor and Saline. This property is special and features great privacy plus a 40 ft. x 70 ft. pole barn with heated workshop. This home represents the finest in craftsmanship and materials. Features include great room with vaulted ceiling and wall of glass, open kitchen with maple cabinets, luxury first floor master suite, great kids' bedrooms, and finished basement. $749,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

CENTENNIAL PARK – Completely renovated 5-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home in one of Saline Schools' most popular neighborhoods. Walking distance to Harvest Elementary and Saline High School. Has undergone an extreme home makeover. Highlights include a two-story great room with full height, stacked stone fireplace, updated kitchen with quartz counters and stainless steel appliances, luxury first floor master suite with marble bath, and finished basement. $659,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BRIARHILL – This perfectly renovated 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home in Briarhill is truly one of the best homes on the market today. You will love the convenience of this Pittsfield Township location just minutes to shopping, freeways, and Ann Arbor. This home is wonderful inside and out. Features include fenced backyard, paver patio, custom kitchen with maple cabinets and granite counters, two-story family room, dream master suite, and finished basement. $589,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – You will love the incredible size and proportion of this 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath two-story home walking distance to downtown Saline. Great setting in the Arboretum with a spacious, private ½-acre lot, extensive landscaping, large yard, and screened porch. Interior highlights include cherry kitchen with granite counters, open concept family room, main floor den, luxury master suite, great kids' bedrooms, and partially finished basement. $529,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

LANSDOWNE RANCH – Very hard to find 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch in the heart of one of Ann Arbor most sought after neighborhoods. You will love this quiet cul-de-sac location, large deck, and spacious backyard. The interior is sharp with fresh paint throughout. Features include welcoming living room, open concept kitchen, family room with fireplace, master bedroom with attached bath, and two nice-sized additional bedrooms. $449,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

YORK MEADOWS – Very sharp 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath home in one of Saline's most popular neighborhoods. Peaceful one acre lot with great landscaping, large backyard, and paver patio. Interior highlights include two-story great room with wall of glass to the backyard, open concept kitchen, luxury first floor master suite, great bedrooms, and flex-use bonus room. You will love it! $449,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Completely updated 5-bedroom, 3 ½-bath. This quiet lot backs to 100+ acres of dedicated wetland. The interior of this home has been completely renovated. Features include all-hardwood on the main level, great room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, white kitchen with granite counter tops, den, first floor master suite, great kids' bedrooms, and finished walkout basement with rec room, bedroom, and bath. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

LAKEWOOD – Charming 4-bedroom, two ½-bath 1930 Tudor in one of the west side's most popular neighborhoods. Walk to Dolph Park, Lakewood Elementary, and Zingerman's Roadhouse from this wonderful home. Highlights include hardwood floors, original trim, comfortable living room with fireplace, family room/den addition with main floor bath, nice master bedroom, and good sized kids' bedrooms. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ASHFORD VILLAGE – Exceptional 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial in one of the most popular neighborhoods in the Ann Arbor School District. This home rests at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac lot and features perfect landscaping, large backyard, and paver patio. The interior is perfect and includes open kitchen, family room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, main floor den, nice master suite, and great kids' bedrooms. $289,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

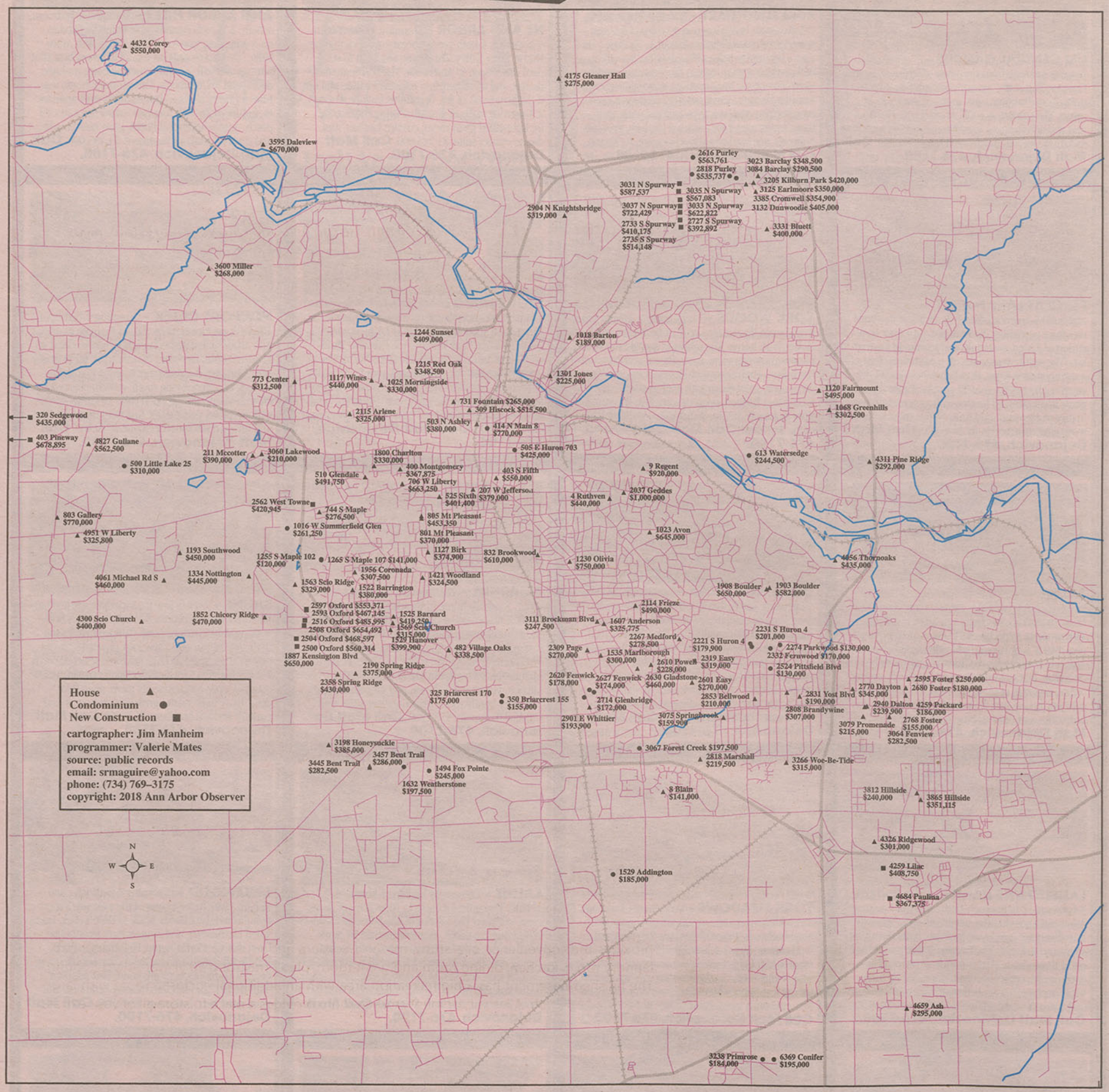
SALINE – Walk to downtown Saline and Woodland Elementary from this wonderful 3-bedroom, 1 ½-bath colonial on a picturesque tree-lined street. This home features an inviting living room, updated kitchen, open concept family room with fireplace, nice master bedroom, and great kids' bedrooms. All-in-one of Saline's most popular neighborhoods. $239,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR CONDO – Easy living 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo in Heatherwood. This is a great condo in Pittsfield Township just minutes to shopping, freeways, and University of Michigan. The condo features new flooring throughout, large living room, open concept kitchen, large master suite with attached bath, and 2nd bedroom and bath. $194,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

HEATHERWOOD – Wonderful 2-bedroom, 2-bath main level condo in one of Ann Arbor's most desired complexes. You will love this most convenient location just minutes to shopping, restaurants, I-94, and University of Michigan. This condo features all upgraded wood laminate flooring, open kitchen, large living room, balcony with great view, spacious master suite, and flex-use 2nd bedroom. $189,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

OCTOBER 2018

HOME SALES



The national boom in real estate prices is softening. The real estate tracker Redfin reported in mid-November "31.3 percent of homes for sale had at least one price drop of more than 1 percent" in October. In Seattle, the site noted, close to half the homes on the market saw such a decline. We decided to see how Ann Arbor area sales stacked up according to this metric.

Zillow.com tracks changes in listing prices, noting the final price ("sale pending" or "listing withdrawn") at the end of the negotiating process. Sometimes this differs from the final publicly reported sale price we use in compiling the map. We reasoned that these final changes resulted from give-and-take at closing rather than a seller's pre-closing price drop. Often the price dropped further than what Zillow reports as the final number—though sometimes it rises, too.

Ann Arbor falls between Redfin's national average and the Seattle figure. Of the 113 homes for which information was available on Zillow, forty-eight, or 42 percent, showed price drops of more than 1 percent. Some of the reductions were substantial, and the average was 7 percent. People have always asked more for their homes than they thought they could get. But it looks like even our hot housing market has limits—and buyers are taking the driver's seat more often.

Our million-dollar homes club expanded by one this month: the six-bedroom French Country house at 2037 Geddes, a block from the Arb and within walking distance of the U-M medical complex, changed hands for an even million, from one U-M biomedical engineer to another.

—James M. Manheim

2018 REALTOR OF THE YEAR!

TODD LANDS

ASSOCIATE BROKER, REALTOR™, ABR, GRI, CSP, CRS, SRES, GREEN

Cellular: (734)-Mi-LANDS
(734)-645-2637

Todd@ToddLands.com

www.MICHIGANLANDS.com

*Born and raised in Ann Arbor, and living the past 22 years in Saline. **Todd Lands** has spent a lifetime learning, helping and sharpening his skills to better serve you. This September he was voted by unanimous decision of his peers at the Ann Arbor Area Board of REALTORS as "**2018 REALTOR of the Year**". Many of his co-workers claim to be "#1", the "Biggest", or "Best", but let the opinion of his peers and designations speak for him. If you are interested in working with a REALTOR of the Year, call him. He can help you with your real estate needs throughout Michigan or a relocation anywhere in the world.*

5743 PING DR, ANN ARBOR

Updated kitchen and baths await you in this great 4 bedroom 2 1/2 bath home. Close to highways, shopping centers, schools, parks, bike paths, recreation center, & more. It has all the right pieces of location to brag about, it is located in Saline Schools, with low Pittsfield Township taxes and an Ann Arbor address. There is an open feel with the 9 foot ceilings throughout the first floor and the openness between the family room and kitchen offers an opportunity to be part of the action but not the chaos. There is also a large formal dining room and a wonderful library with built-in book shelves & french doors perfect for a little privacy. The kitchen has all the things to make a chef feel at home from a large pantry, wall oven, built-in microwave, warming drawer, farmers sink, wine rack, wine fridge, gorgeous granite counters, 6 burner Viking gas cook top in the island and hand built custom artisan cabinets from Maine. This place is ready to host your holiday gathering! $499,900. MLS# 3261425

216 S ANN ARBOR ST, SALINE

Quintessential Craftsman, just steps from the heart of downtown Saline. It has 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths & over 2,600 SF above ground. The basement is full of storage & there is one room ready to finish. The cobblestone foundation under the oversize front porch has a timeless beauty & offers an inviting restfulness, especially on a rainy day; it adds a special feel for guests and occupants alike. There is a beautiful, newer great room addititon at the back of the house that features: cathedral ceilings, gas fireplace, entertainment wet bar, plus there's a full modern basement below the great room with an egress window(that is pre-plumbed for a bath). The extra large garage is another great addition made to this property; it is an extra deep 2.5 car garage with an amazing climate controlled (full HVA) upstairs, perfect for a number of things - She-shed, Man-cave, pool table room, huge sewing room or whatever floats your boat!) Most recently it has been used as a home office. $440,000. MLS# 3261000

418 WOODLAND DR, SALINE

Located in the popular Northview subdivision, within walking/biking distance of the library, schools, parks and downtown Saline, this 3 bd, 3 bth contemporary home, with many updates in the past eight years, has lots to offer. 2 bds and full bath on second floor, the main floor provides the convenience of a study, master bedroom and en-suite bath, an additional bath, laundry room, kitchen, dining room and great room, plus Armstrong 50 yr warranted flooring. The finished basement has a big recreation area with an additional enclosed room with large closet and full bath, A large basement storage room provides a place to store all of your extras. A peek-a-boo closet under the basement stairs adds additional pantry space. Outside boasts a large Trex deck, three garden boxes for your organic produce and many flowering bushes. $310,000. MLS# 3261134

Reinhart
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For questions about any of these listings above or any other real estate matter please call me at:
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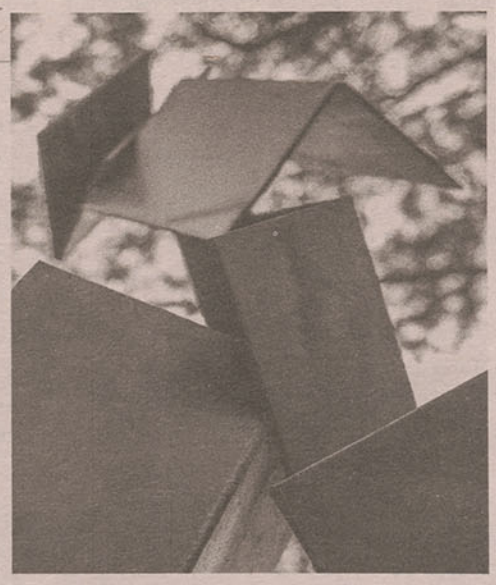
Back Page

i spy

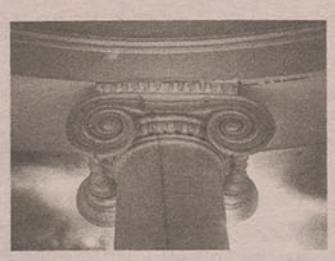
by Sally Bjork



In the theme of old parks: Packard truncated into a square here

It's "one of the columns on the Island Park Shelter, just off Island Drive" writes Melodie Marske of November's feature—"currently surrounded by water, and hopefully not too soon, ice!" she continues, referring to the clue. Mitchell Rycus, who has been going to the park since 1954, says "I think the columns might be the original ones," with a few restorations. "It was built as a comfort station," writes Susan Wineberg, author of *Historic Ann Arbor–An Architectural Guide*. This is "a polite way to say toilet," she continues, alluding to one of the original features of the 1914 pavilion. "It may be the oldest structure in our park system!"

While it may have started as a "comfort station," it has long since been converted to a shelter and a popular site for romantic strolls, portraits and ceremonies. "I was married there!" writes Mark Jacobsen. "We would run for the shelter," on rainy days, reminisces David Karl. "There we would watch the storm passing, holding hands." Paul Keller "can't forget that iconic ionic capital!!!" In one of those "crazy things dads do," he took his daughter's senior portrait there "on a frigid day in October 2006," bringing a large harp along. "I liked the harp(lyre)/Ancient Greek connection and made sure to include the ionic capital of the column in the photo."



We received fifteen correct entries in November and many stories of the beloved pavilion at Island Park. Marske won our random drawing. Melodie, please let us know where you'd like to enjoy your $25 gift card!

To enter this month's contest, use the photo and clue above and the information below to submit your answer.

fake ad

by Jay Forstner

Don't you love it when people say it makes them happy to see good things happen to their friends? And don't you love it even more when they are really honest and say they're even more happy when good things happen to themselves? That brings us to Kevin Berasley's entry this month.

This holiday season, make your friends red in the face and green with envy.
Rachel Vieira
Decorating and Interior Design
(734) 668-8397
www.rachelvieiradesign.com

"The fake ad is for RacHEL VIEira Decorating and Interior Design on page 54," Berasley wrote, pointing out how the name of last month's winner, Leigh Helvie, was hidden in the ad. "I'm always happy to see when someone I know like Leigh Helvie wins. Just not quite as happy as when I win."

Our winner this month, chosen from 124 correct entries, was Beth Freese. She's taking her gift certificate to the Carlyle Grill.

To enter this month's contest, find the fake ad and follow the instructions in the box below. The fake ad always contains the name of last month's winner in some form.

To enter this month's contests, send email to backpage@aaobserver.com. Mail: 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. All correct entries received by noon on Monday, December 10, will be eligible for our random drawings. Winners receive a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue.

THANKS!

We extend a sincere thank you to our new Observer friends!

We appreciate your financial support.

Thanks also to readers who responded to our request for **FREE** subscription confirmations.

Congratulations to the lucky winners of our November drawing!

The following readers won a **$25 gift certificate** to their choice of any business advertising in the Observer.

November winners:
Gary P. & Jean R.

If you would like to be entered in the December drawing for a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue, check out the information on page 88, and submit your Observer Friend or Free Subscription confirmation by December 10.

Thanks!

Observer Staff

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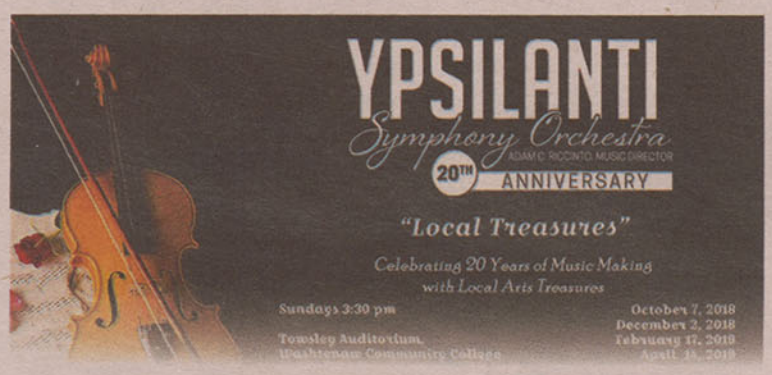

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Events at a Glance

Events listings begin on p. ***63.*** ***Films:*** *p.* ***71.*** ***Galleries:*** *p.* ***79.*** ***Kids:*** *p.* ***87.*** ***Nightspots*** *begin on p.* ***60.***

➤**Reviewed** in this issue. See p. **63.**

Concert Music

classical, religious, cabaret

- "Croissant Concert" (cabaret), Dec. 1
- Evening of Sacred Song, Dec. 1
- Handel's Messiah (University Choral Union), Dec. 1 & 2
- "World Map Concerti," Dec. 1
- TubaChristmas, Dec. 2
- Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 2
- "An Organist's Christmas," Dec. 7
- "A Boychoir Christmas," Dec. 7 & 8
- Violinist Maria Schleuning & cellist Jolyon Pegis, Dec. 7
- Dexter Community Band, Dec. 9
- Our Own Thing Chorale, Dec. 9
- Classical Bells Holiday Concert, Dec. 9
- Ann Arbor Grail Singers, Dec. 9
- "A Heritage Holiday" (choral), Dec. 9
- Ypsilanti Community Choir, Dec. 13
- escapeVelocity (chamber), Dec. 13
- "A Dickens of a Christmas" (choral), Dec. 14
- Washtenaw Community Concert Band, Dec. 14
- Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 14
- Community Messiah Sing, Dec. 15
- Vocal Arts Ensemble, Dec. 16
- ➤Joyce DiDonato, Dec. 16
- Joel Schoenhals & Drew De Four (classical), Dec. 16

Vernacular Music

pop, rock, jazz, & traditional

See ***Nightspots,*** *p. 60, for shows at the Ark, Blind Pig, & other clubs*

- Nefesh Mountain (bluegrass/Jewish), Dec. 1
- Chris DuPont & Katie Van Dusen (folk-rock), Dec. 1
- U-M Groove (percussion), Dec. 1
- Alberto Rojo Trio (Argentinian folk & jazz), Dec. 2
- Melissa Etheridge (acoustic rock), Dec. 4
- Scott Cook & Jon Brooks (singer-songwriters), Dec. 5
- The Beach Boys (pop legends), Dec. 6
- Larry Fuller Trio (jazz), Dec. 6
- Don White (singer-songwriter), Dec. 7
- Lucy Ann Lance Hometown Christmas Radio Show, Dec. 8
- ➤Charles Lloyd & Lucinda Williams (jazz-Americana), Dec. 8
- Cold Tone Harvest (acoustic roots), Dec. 8
- Katie Geddes & friends (folk), Dec. 14
- Ursula Walker (jazz vocalist), Dec. 14
- Alvin Waddles (jazz pianist), Dec. 15
- Thunderwüde (bluegrass), Dec. 22
- Pete Siers Duo (boogie-woogie), Dec. 31

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *The Nutcracker* (Chelsea Ballet), Dec. 1 & 2
- *Star Trek Puppet Show* (Dreamland), Dec. 1, 8, & 16
- *Hello Dolly!* (Encore), every Thurs.–Sun. through Dec. 23
- *The Elves and the Schumachers* (Theatre Nova), every Fri.–Sun.
- *Diva Royale* (Purple Rose), every Wed.–Sun. through Dec. 29
- *Antony and Cleopatra* (National Theatre broadcast), Dec. 6
- *Twelfth Night* (U-M Theatre), Dec. 6–9
- *The Grand Duke* (U-M Gilbert & Sullivan), Dec. 6–9
- *Swan Lake* (EMU Dance), Dec. 7
- One-Act Plays (Neighborhood Theatre Group), Dec. 7
- *The Nutcracker* (Randazzo), Dec. 8 & 9
- *and … then he looked at me* (Spinning Dot), Dec. 8 & 9
- *A Child's Christmas in Wales* (Michigan Celtic Repertory Co.), Dec. 8 & 9
- *The Madness of King George III* (National Theatre broadcast), Dec. 9
- *La Traviata* (Metropolitan Opera broadcast), Dec. 15
- *The Nutcracker* (Academy of Russian Classical Ballet), Dec. 15
- *The Nutcracker* (Dance Alliance), Dec. 15 & 16
- *The Nutcracker* (Ann Arbor Ballet Theatre), Dec. 21–23
- *The Nutcracker* (Bolshoi Ballet broadcast), Dec. 23

Comedy, Storytelling, & Performance Art

- Bill Hildebrandt, Dec. 1
- Comic Sean Kent, Dec. 6–8
- "Reindeer Games" improv, Dec. 7, 14, & 21
- Comic Joe DeVito, Dec. 13–15
- Comic Dave Landau, Dec. 20–22
- Comic Jackie Kashian, Dec. 27–29
- Comic K-Von, Dec. 31

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Chelsea Hometown Holiday, Dec. 1
- "Christmas at the Mansion" (Dexter), Dec. 1 & 2
- "Christmas in the Village" (Manchester), Dec. 1
- "Christmas on the Farm" (Waterloo), Dec. 1 & 2
- "A Manor Christmas" (Concordia), Dec. 1 & 2
- Saline Christmas parade, Dec. 1
- Concordia Boar's Head Festival, Dec. 1 & 2
- Cobblestone Farm "Country Christmas," Dec. 2
- Rudolf Steiner "Winter Festival," Dec. 8
- "Christmas at Rentschler Farm," Dec. 15 & 16

Lectures, Readings, & Forums

- ➤Poet Elizabeth Alexander, Dec. 4 & 6
- Novelist Ann Epstein, Dec. 4
- Novelist Louise Penny, Dec. 5
- "I Name This Body MINE: Poetry Night in Ann Arbor," Dec. 15

Family & Kids' Stuff

See ***Kids Calendar,*** *p. 87, for most kids events.*

- *Freaky Friday* musical, Dec. 14–16

Miscellaneous

- Dr. Porter Synchronized Skating Classic, Dec. 1 & 2

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- "I Am Jazz," Dec. 6

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